FRIDAY
June 12, 2026

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France signals new model for Rafale deal

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WOMEN'S T20 WC

Upbeat England meets Sri Lanka in opener

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SC: Homemakers build nation, work worth at least ₹30,000 a month

Rizmi Lia M.
CHENNAI

Observing that homemakers deserve to be recognised as "nation builders", the Supreme Court on Thursday ruled that the unpaid domestic work performed by them must be monetised at a minimum of ₹30,000 per month while calculating compensation for deaths in road accidents.

The ruling came in an appeal arising from a motor accident claim in Punjab where a woman named Reshma died in a road accident in November 2001. Her husband and three children approached the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal seeking compensation. While the tribunal awarded compensation in 2003, they approached the High Court to enhance the amount. On appeal, the High Court enhanced the compensation to ₹8.43 lakh with 7.5% interest, providing for a higher rate of interest in case of delay in payment.

A Division Bench of Justice Sanjay Karol and Justice N.K. Singh said the contribution of a homemaker extended beyond the household and played a vital role in nation-building. "We are of the view that the housewife contributes to the growth of the human being and the nation," said the Bench.

Justice Karol stated that "loss of domestic care" would be an additional ground to the heads of damages previously recognised by the court.

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U.S. hits one more vessel with Indian crew off Oman

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI/NEW DELHI

The U.S. on Thursday attacked a bitumen carrier, *Jalveer*, with 20 Indian seafarers aboard off Oman, marking the third such incident in four days. The crew was reported safe.

India had already lodged a strong protest with the U.S. after strikes on tankers *Marivex* and *Settebello* carrying Indian crew, in which three Indians aboard *Settebello* were killed.

The U.S. military said *Jalveer* was targeted for allegedly transporting Iranian oil. India described the incidents as deeply concerning. Political parties, including Congress and CPI(M), condemned the strikes and urged stronger government action and accountability

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Trump backs off from Iran strikes, signals deal is likely

Tehran has 'approved' talks, says the U.S. President while announcing pause on attacks hours after threatening to hit Iran 'very hard', seize Kharg Island; Hormuz blockade to 'remain till deal finalised'

Stanly Johny

After two days of tit-for-tat strikes with Iran, U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday said he would pause further attacks, just hours after threatening to hit the country "very hard" and seize Kharg Island and its energy infrastructure. He claimed that Tehran had "approved" talks.

A screengrab from a video released by the U.S. CENTCOM on Thursday shows strikes targeting 'Iranian infrastructure'. AFP

"Based on the fact that discussions with the Islamic Republic of Iran have been brought to the highest level of Iranian leadership and approved, I have, as President of the United States of America, cancelled the scheduled strikes and bombings against Iran this evening," Mr. Trump wrote in a social media post on Thursday night. "Discussions and final points have been, in both concept and great detail, approved by all parties involved, including the United States, Israel, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Turkiye, Pakistan, Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan, Egypt, and others," he said adding that the U.S. naval blockade of Iranian ports "will remain in full force and effect until this transaction is finalised – Time and place of the signing to be announced shortly."

Earlier in the day, Mr. Trump had written in another post that he would continue striking Iran after both sides exchanged fire for two consecutive nights. After Thursday's attack, Iran also announced that it closed the Strait of Hormuz to all traffic.

In recent months, Mr. Trump had made several U-turns after making harsh threats against Iran and issuing ultimatums, often claiming progress in talks.

After Mr. Trump threatened to take Kharg Island, Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf, Iran's Parliament Speaker, had warned that any further escalation would lead to an explosion of energy infrastructure and markets. "Wrong strategies and impulsive decisions will reset the entire board for the worse, explode energy infrastructure and markets and create an endless quagmire that you will be stuck in for years. You will see a different Iran," he wrote in a social media post.

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NEARBY

Bengaluru needs greater Central aid, says CM

BENGALURU
Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday sought additional infrastructure grants for Bengaluru to cope with increasing demands owing to migration from other States.

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METROPLUS » PAGE 7

MLC Naseer Ahmed faces disqualification after NCLT declares him bankrupt

Krishnaprasad
BENGALURU

Naseer Ahmed

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Bengaluru Bench, has declared Naseer Ahmed, Member of the Karnataka Legislative Council from the Congress, as "bankrupt" under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) for failing to repay ₹1,454 crore outstanding loan amount of his erstwhile company M/s Scotts Garments Limited, Bengaluru, now liquidated.

The declaration of Mr. Naseer as bankrupt now leads to his disqualification from the post of MLC under both Section 140 of the IBC and Article 191(1)(c) of the Constitution of India, which disqualifies a MLA or MLC if he is an "undischarged insolvent".

Incidentally, Mr. Naseer was removed from the post of political secretary (to the then Chief Minister Siddaramaiah) amid allegations of anti-party activity during the Davangere South Assembly bypoll.

Meanwhile, the NCLT has also declared his wife, Nuzhat Aisha Naseer, and son Awaiz Ahmed as "bankrupt" as they were also personal guarantors for the loan as erstwhile directors of the company of which Mr. Naseer was the Managing Director before it was liquidated following a liquidation proceedings initiated in 2019.

A Bengaluru Bench of the NCLT comprising comprising Sunil Kumar Aggarwal (Judicial Member) and Radhakrishna Sreepada (Technical Member) passed the order on June 8 on an application filed by State Bank of India, Canara Bank, and IDBI Bank under the IBC-2016. The NCLT has appointed Insolvency Professional, Ravindra Beleyur, as Bankruptcy Trustee (BT) under Section 125 of the IBC to take custody of all the assets/estates of Mr. Naseer, his wife and son for recovering the dues to the creditors.

From the bankruptcy commencement date, Section 140 of the IBC states, the bankrupts, besides disqualification under existing laws, are disqualified from being appointed or acting as a public servant; being appointed or acting as a trustee or representative of any trust, estate or settlement, being elected to any public office, or be elected, sit, or vote as a local authority member.

Bankruptcy declaration imposes restrictions on Mr. Naseer and others like preventing them from acting as any company director or participate in promotion, formation, or management.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 5

BJP's RS candidates in M.P. elected unopposed; EC yet to decide on Congress plea

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidates Tarun Chug, Rajneesh Agrawal, and Mahesh Kewat were on Thursday declared elected unopposed to the three Rajya Sabha seats from Madhya Pradesh, even as the Congress challenged in the Supreme Court the rejection of nomination of its candidate, Meenakshi Natarajan.

Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly Principal Secretary Arvind Sharma, who is the Returning Officer (RO) for the election, issued election certificates to the three BJP candidates, prompting celebration in the party camp.

The Election Commission (EC), however, is yet to take a decision on the Congress's petition challenging the rejection of Ms. Natarajan's nomination for allegedly not disclosing a case in Hyderabad in which she had received a notice as a respondent.

'Seat theft'

The Congress accused the RO and the ruling BJP of "seat theft", while maintaining that Ms. Natarajan did not face any first information report or charges in the Telangana case and that she was thus not required to disclose it in the election affidavit.

Congress State president Jitu Patwari said the party MLAs from Madhya Pradesh had sought time from President Droupadi Murmu on Friday to seek her intervention.

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Newly elected BJP Rajya Sabha members with election certificates at the Madhya Pradesh Assembly on Thursday. A. M. FARUQUI

SC agrees to hear plea against rejection today

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court will hear on Friday a plea filed by Congress leader Meenakshi Natarajan challenging the rejection of her nomination papers for the Rajya Sabha election in Madhya Pradesh.

A Bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and A.S. Chandurkar agreed to take up the matter following an oral request by senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi. The Bench, however, declined to grant any interim relief preventing the declaration of the election result, observing that courts should ordinarily not intervene once the electoral process has commenced.

"Sorry, we cannot. We are posting it tomorrow, subject to clearance of all defects," the Bench told Mr. Singhvi, who urged the court to pass an interim order preventing the authorities from declaring the result pending adjudication of the plea.

The move came amid concerns raised by the Congress that Thursday was the final day for withdrawal of nominations. The party pointed out that with Ms. Natarajan out of the fray, the BJP candidates could be elected unopposed after the withdrawal deadline expired. "Today is the last day of withdrawal. They are technically entitled to declare the result after the deadline to withdraw nomination ends later today because it would be unopposed," Mr. Singhvi said, urging the Bench at least to direct the authorities not to declare the result till the matter was heard.

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Mental distress on campuses flagged

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Student well-being must become central to higher education governance, said the National Task Force constituted by the Supreme Court to address mental health concerns among students, flagging gaps in the availability and quality of counselling services across campuses.

The interim report of the task force called for wide-ranging reforms in support systems, mental health services, faculty recruitment, and scholarship disbursal.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 4

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Stokes — the problem child

Each time he was in the dock, the star all-rounder dug deep to come back stronger, endearing himself to England's historically unforgiving cricketing populace; the fact that Brook has been overlooked and the captaincy returned to Root, if only on a temporary basis, reiterates how shaken the mandarins at the ECB are at the latest turn of events

R. Kaushik

Ben Stokes is an extraordinary cricketer who has done extraordinary things on the cricket field. Superhuman. Out of the world. Impossibly compelling. These are some of the adjectives that have accompanied his stirring deeds, driven as much by his supreme skills and his never-say-die attitude as the bull-headed unwillingness to surrender even when the odds are stacked heavily against him.

Born in Christchurch in the Antipodes but having made the historic city of Durham in the North-East of England his home several moons back, the 35-year-old has scaled dizzying heights through sheer weight of character. With the bat, he can switch from watchful defence to a blitz of epic proportions in the blink of an eye. He is a most accomplished operator with the ball, but it's for his ability, indeed willingness, to do the dirty job that he truly stands out.

When England seek control, Stokes takes it upon himself to dry up the runs. When they try to bounce batters out, Stokes thinks little of going round the stumps and bashing the ball into the most docile of pitches ball after ball, over after over, going even eight or nine overs in a spell without losing pace, intensity, energy or direction. He is a fabulous fielder, sure of hands and athletic beyond compare. And he is a grand leader of men, always in the thick of battle. He is the quintessential all-round package, the premier all-rounder of his generation bar none, one of those players that, as they say, 'put bums on the seats'.

There has to be a streak of madness, however, in the round-the-wicket mode of operation that has become a Stokes calling card, and sometimes (maybe more than sometimes), that streak manifests itself off the field, often with a little nudge from Bacchus. Stokes' latest dalliance, in cahoots with Gus Atkinson, has heaped further misery on a system that is seen as being subservient to players, who appear to have perfected the art of bossing over their bosses.

Stunning twist

In a stunning turn of events, Stokes (and Atkinson) have been stood down from the second Test against New Zealand, starting at the Oval on Wednesday, following their run-in with a Saracens rugby player last Sunday, hours after England pulled off a comfortable win over the Kiwis at the home of English cricket. Lord's threw up a diabolical 22-yard strip that made batting a lottery, and made heroes out of workmen-like bowlers. So heavily skewed in favour of the bowlers was the pitch that match referee Andy Pycroft was compelled to rate it 'unsatisfactory' (perhaps he was a touch generous), a massive blow to the reputation of a venue that prides itself on being the very definition of prim and proper. If Lord's can be perceived as having failed to live up to the lofty standards that have come to be associated with it, surely, we shouldn't be surprised at Stokes playing true to character, right?

Stokes has a long and disturbing history with nightclubs and other watering holes. The most visible of misadventures came in 2017 in Bristol when, after an ODI against West Indies, he was involved in a late-night altercation outside a nightclub. After a flurry of punches that might not have been out of place in a boxing ring, Stokes was arrested and charged with affray, lost his vice-captaincy, was suspended by the England and Wales Cricket Board and missed the 2017-18 Ashes tour of Australia.

After an understandably high-profile trial, he was clear of affray charges in August 2018. Stokes celebrated in style, playing a lead role in England's maiden tryst with the 50-over World Cup the following July and playing one of the most unforgettable fourth-innings knocks in Leeds to single-handedly pilot his side to a one-wicket victory against the old foe.

Long before this, he had been cautioned officially by the cops during a night out in Newcastle (2012) early in his career, which meant that he wasn't considered for international selection for a year thereafter even though he had debuted in both white-ball formats by the time. A year on, he was sent home from an England Lions tour of Australia (alongside Matt Coles) for breaching drinking and curfew rules while in 2014, he completed a hat-trick of ignominy when he fractured his hand after smashing a dressing room locker in frustration on being run out in the Caribbean, an injury severe enough to rule him out of the T20 World Cup in Bangladesh.

Each time he was in the dock, Stokes dug deep to come back stronger, endearing himself to England's historically unforgiving cricketing populace through sheer bloody-mindedness and the propensity to leave nothing behind in the dressing-room. One couldn't help but admire his resolve (so much so, that his remarkable skills were almost taken for granted) and he became larger than life in the country which he had made his home very early, eventually ascending the captaincy in 2022 after a terrible run under Joe Root that produced just a solitary Test win in the Yorkshireman's last 17 outings as captain.

In a sequence of developments that can so easily find a special mention in *Ripley's Believe It or Not*, Root, also 35 and arguably the greatest English batter of all time, is now back as Test skipper, albeit in an interim capacity, for the Oval skirmish against Tom Latham's beleaguered troops. By and in itself, that's an interesting development because Harry Brook, the white-ball captain, was Stokes' designated deputy. The fact that Brook has been overlooked and the captaincy returned to Root, if only on a temporary basis, reiterates how shaken the mandarins at the ECB are at the latest turn of events where, we are repeatedly being told, the *only* transgression Stokes and Atkinson were guilty of was breaking team curfew rules.

The curfew was imposed this January after a litany of bad behaviour with the high-profile Brook and opener Ben Duckett in the crosshairs, the former in New Zealand on the eve of an ODI in his first series as captain and the latter during the ill-fated Ashes tour down under in the last Australian summer. England had sought to sweep the Brook episode under the carpet after he was 'clocked' by a bouncer outside a nightclub in Wellington the night before the final ODI. He was fined more than ₹36 lakh and almost lost his captaincy. A few months later, a video surfaced of Duckett purportedly drunk and unable to find his way to the team hotel in Noosa when England embarked on a pre-arranged mid-series break between the second and the third Ashes Tests despite being 0-2 down in the most furiously followed cricketing faceoff.

Ironically, alongside head coach Brendon McCullum with whom he once enjoyed a fabulous relationship rumoured to have gone pear-shaped during the disastrous Ashes campaign, Stokes was among the prime movers of the curfew imposed ahead of a white-ball tour of Sri Lanka that was to culminate in the T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka in February-March. For the skipper therefore to breach the rules he himself had helped put in place is poor optics, never mind if he and Atkinson, like we are being told, were not the *agent provocateurs* in the London incident of Sunday at Chelsea's Rex Rooms nightclub which left an ECB security personnel needing stitches after reportedly being struck by the Saracens' Samoan rugby player, Totoa Auvaa.

Mixed messages

There have been mixed messages from England in the days since the incident came to light. It is been rumoured that Stokes might not just step down from the captaincy but retire entirely from the sport, which might seem like an overreaction until one is informed that there is no guarantee that he will be selected in the Test squad if he quits the leadership role because he has scored only 31 runs in his last six Test innings. Anyone who has followed the Stokes graph with only cursory interest knows well the perils of ruling him out prematurely. But clearly, England's bosses with McCullum -- himself under scrutiny for his backfiring Bazball tactics -- at the helm might feel Stokes' best days are behind him and that the responsibility of taking the team forward across formats must be entrusted to the exciting, unconventional and aggressive Brook.

The problem is that all these Brook traits, so arresting on the cricket field, have spilled over beyond the boundary. Root's temporary elevation as skipper is the ultimate acknowledgement from the decision-making group at this troubled time, England are looking for stability and maturity and poise and measured leadership in the short term, all of which Root provides in abundance and which aren't necessarily Brook's visible USPs. It can also be construed as a message, however belated, that there will be no more tolerance of unacceptable behaviour from young men tasked with not just acquitting themselves with credit on the cricket field but who are also installed as global ambassadors of their country. Nasser Hussain and Mike Atherton, respected former captains with respected voices, are unequivocal in stating that the Rex Rooms standoff isn't a 'sackable offence'. *Per se*, they are absolutely right. After all, one can argue, they were out celebrating a Test victory - unlike Brook in Wellington - and that shouldn't be a crime in itself. But when the captain breaks the same rules that he had helped implement, surely, it must come with repercussions far greater than if only a 'mere' member of the side was guilty of curfew-breaking. Which is exactly why there is a more lenient view of paceman Atkinson's misdemeanour.

Stokes, it would seem, has chosen not to make decisions from a place of emotion, which is just as well because any immediate emotional call will inevitably come with regrets for a lifetime. He has a few days to consider where he stands, where is at mentally, how much gas he has left in the mental tank, confabulate with his bosses, read the room and then decide how he wants to play it. If he is seen to be sincerely remorseful, he could be back, at least as a player. If he has played his last international game, it will be a shame but then again, actions do have consequences, don't they?

THE GIST

- Stokes has a long and disturbing history with nightclubs and other watering holes. The most visible of misadventures came in 2017 in Bristol when, after an ODI against West Indies, he was involved in a late-night altercation outside a nightclub
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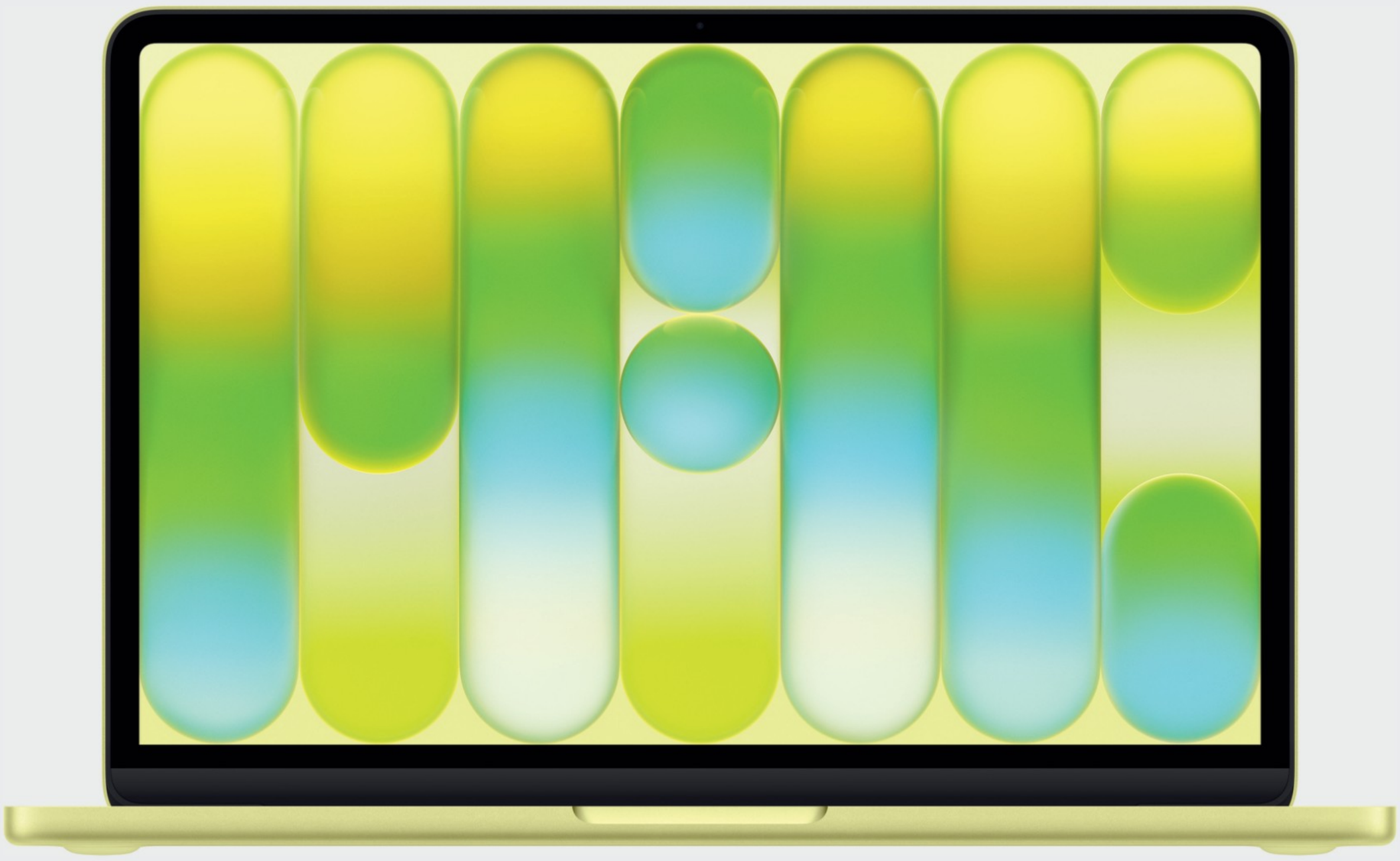

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Woman arrested for murdering six-year-old daughter

Suspicions prompted father to file a complaint seeking a detailed probe

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Days after the shocking murder of six-year-old Vennela came to light, the Kadugodi police on Thursday arrested the child's mother, advocate P. Priyanka, from Sakleshpur in Hassan district.

Priyanka, who had been living separately from her husband Praveen, was allegedly in a live-in relationship with realtor G.M. Mohan at a house in Seegehalli.

Investigations have revealed that the duo allegedly murdered Vennela nearly three months ago and attempted to pass off the death as an accident.

Suspicions over the circumstances surrounding the child's death prompted her father, Praveen, to file a complaint seeking a detailed investigation. Acting on the complaint, the police exhumed the body and sent it for a post-mortem examination.

Following preliminary investigations, the police arrested Mohan. However, Priyanka allegedly went into hiding before she could be taken into custody. After the post-mortem report confirmed that the child had died due to homicidal violence, a police team tracked Priyanka to Sakleshpur, where she was hiding, and arrested her on Thursday.

She was subsequently brought to Bengaluru and produced before a court. During the proceedings, the judge reportedly warned the accused to fully cooperate with the investigation, cautioning her against attempting to mislead investigators or create obstacles in the probe.

Meanwhile, the case has put the Kadugodi police under scrutiny, with questions being raised over the alleged delay in registering an FIR despite receiving a complaint from the child's father and reportedly being aware of the suspicious nature of the death. Senior police officers are expected to examine the sequence of events leading up to the registration of the case.

The police said further investigation is under way to establish the exact motive behind the murder and the role played by each accused. The accused initially gave different explanations, claiming the girl had fallen ill after eating biryani or had been accidentally asphyxiated after being left sleeping in an air-conditioned car.

However, the child was allegedly assaulted and smothered to death after a dispute over a flavour of ice cream. Vennela was taken to Vydehi Hospital on the morning of March 25 and declared brought dead.

BSWML pitches two garbage collection models to break 'contractor monopoly'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BSWML says contractors often go on strike and garbage collection comes to a complete halt. K. MURALI KUMAR

To get Bengaluru's waste collection system out of the clutches of contractors, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) has proposed two models to tackle the garbage collection problem – either a government-owned fleet for waste collection or a self-employment model under which government-owned vehicles would be handed over to drivers and helpers, who would eventually become owners of the vehicles.

The proposal has been submitted to the government following a hearing before the Karnataka Lokayukta on Wednesday, during which concerns were raised over Bengaluru's continued dependence on private contractors for primary solid waste collection and transportation.

BSWML pushed for the two models citing examples of Mysuru, which topped the Swachh Survekshan rankings in 2016, and Indore, which has consistently ranked among the cleanest cities in India.

The agency said that contractors often go on strike, and in such cases, garbage collection comes to a complete halt as the corporation and BSWML are fully dependent on them.

BSWML CEO Karee Gowda said Bengaluru's waste collection tenders have repeatedly been delayed by court cases and re-tendering. Even recent tenders floated have faced legal challenges and a lack of bidders.

As a solution, Mr. Gowda proposed that the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and BSWML acquire their own fleet of vehicles and directly undertake at least a portion of waste collection operations.

Under the second model, vehicles purchased by civic agencies would be allotted to drivers rather than contractors. Drivers would be assigned responsibility for specific waste collection blocks and would pay an advance amount of ₹2 lakh per vehicle. The advance amount would serve as the down payment, while the remaining cost would be financed through bank loans. Loan repayments would be deducted from monthly payments, and ownership of the vehicle would eventually be transferred to the driver after seven years.

BSWML said the second model could create nearly 4,800 self-employed operators while reducing dependence on contractors.

It said that Bengaluru has a population of about 1.2 crore and nearly 30 lakh households. Based on the existing norm of one auto tipper for every 750 households, around 4,000 vehicles are required for primary waste collection.

Mr. Gowda said that between 5% and 10% of auto tippers remain absent from service on any given day. "Since each vehicle caters to around 750 households, such absences leave thousands of households without waste collection services," he said, arguing that although penalties have been imposed, contractors have often not submitted bills for months, making recovery difficult.

Mr. Gowda further pointed out that more than half of the vehicles currently used for waste collection are around 15 years old. Most are three-wheeler auto tippers with a carrying capacity of only about 500 kg and are not equipped with GPS systems. To address this, BSWML has proposed replacing them with four-wheeled electric vehicles that have a higher carrying capacity.

The new vehicles would be fitted with GPS tracking systems, public address systems and front and rear dash cameras, enabling real-time monitoring of collection operations. BSWML estimates that each vehicle, with necessary utilities, would cost between ₹9.46 lakh and ₹11.16 lakh. Administrative approval has been granted for the purchase of 40 vehicles at an estimated ₹4.97 crore in the first phase.

'Place committee's report in public domain'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok on Thursday continued to criticise Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar over tenders for garbage disposal in Bengaluru.

Mr. Ashok hit back at Mr. Shivakumar for calling him "an agent of garbage mafia" and remarked, "Yes I am an agent, but not an agent of any mafia or commission like you. I am a janata (public) agent who is espousing the cause of seven-and-a-half crore Kannadigas and one-and-a-half crore Bengalureans."

The BJP leader, who had come under criticism from the Chief Minister on Wednesday after he had alleged that there were massive irregularities over garbage tenders, maintained, "It is my Constitutional right as Leader of the Opposition to question the looting by you. I need not take anybody's permission to do so."

Pointing out that a high-level committee has been formed to look into the issues related to tendering norms, and the deadline for it to submit a report in this regard had ended, he challenged Mr. Shivakumar to make the report public.

'No ID, no entry': Pub, bar owners wary of fake IDs, implementation

Poojitha B.V.
BENGALURU

Days after Karnataka's Home Minister Priyank Kharge directed police to crack down on underage drinking, pub and bar owners across the State have welcomed the intent of stricter age-verification norms, but questioned how the new directive will be implemented, particularly in identifying forged documents and handling customer data.

On June 9, DG&IGP M.A. Saleem issued a detailed circular mandating stricter enforcement of age-verification norms at pubs, breweries, bars, clubs, lounges, restaurants, and all establishments serving liquor. The circular requires outlets to verify the age of patrons before granting entry, or serving alcohol, and mandates a strict 'No ID, No Entry' policy across Karnataka.

However, several industry stakeholders told *The Hindu* that while the rule itself is not new, there is little clarity on the operational aspects of enforcement.

"Nothing new has been introduced. The legal drinking age has been 21 for as long as I can remember. What is confusing is the requirement regarding retention of ID copies. The circular mentions that IDs must be retained for inspection, but it is not clear whether establishments are expected to take photocopies or photos. There are also concerns about whether customers would be comfortable," Chethan Hegde, founder of 1522 Pub at Koramangala told *The Hindu*.

A manager at a pub in Bengaluru's central business district said that the larger challenge lies in identifying fake IDs, particularly digital versions on phones. "Almost 30% of the Aadhaar cards we come across are edited or manipulated. Driving licences are comparatively harder to tamper with. Physical PAN cards are also easy to verify, but digital copies of documents can be problematic," he said.

"As long as a document is shown on a phone, there is a possibility that it has been altered. We have seen cases where minors edited their date of birth, and attempted to gain entry," he added.

Another manager of a pub on Church Street said establishments face practical limitations even when checking physical IDs. "If it is a genuine physical document, verification becomes easier. But there is no foolproof way to identify every fake ID. Asking customers for copies of their identification raises concerns about privacy, potential misuse of personal data, and the logistics of maintaining records when hundreds of patrons visit during weekends."

Bar managers and a cybersecurity expert pointed to DigiLocker-based verification as the most reliable solution available.

G. Vimal Kumar, cyber forensics and private cybercrime investigation expert at Cyber Privilege, said, "When a customer merely shows a scanned copy or screenshot of an ID on a phone, entry staff cannot authenticate it visually," he said.

He said DigiLocker verification becomes effective only when establishments scan the QR code generated in the official application. "The customer must open the DigiLocker application on their device, and present the QR code for verification. QR code authentication closes a major loophole," he explained.

Some establishments have already adopted this. A pub in Indiranagar has installed scanning devices at its entrance, and does not accept soft copies of Aadhaar cards. A few establishments have shifted entirely to DigiLocker-based verification after encountering repeated instances of forged digital IDs.

Industry representatives, however, said no formal training or operational guidelines had been issued to help staff implement the new measures.

Couple killed in road accident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A couple on their way to attend a wedding were killed after a speeding truck knocked down their motorcycle in Yeshwantpur Traffic Police limits on Thursday afternoon.

The deceased have been identified as Shahabaz, 28, and Shabreen Taj, 25, residents of Ullal. The couple were running a provision store in the locality.

According to preliminary information, the incident occurred around 12.45 p.m. when they were going to Mariyannapalya. The two-wheeler was coming from Hebbal Junction and reportedly took a left turn towards the ring road stretch to access the Outer Ring Road leading towards the Peenya Industrial Area.

A cylinder truck was moving from Peenya towards the city. A canter vehicle was travelling on the same stretch. The canter allegedly hit the bike and ran over the riders.

Musical comedy today

BENGALURU: A Kannada play 'Kolalu.com(edy)' about a Hindustani Classical music teacher, is being brought to the stage by well-known flautist Praveen Godkhindi and his troupe Sanjog.

A release from the organisation said it will be staged at Dr. C. Ashwath Kala Mandira in N.R. Colony on Friday and Saturday at 6.30 p.m.

Tickets can be availed on BookMyShow.

UTTAR PRADESH MEDICAL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LTD.
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Tender Notice

Tender Ref. No: UPMSCL/Drugs-260/11 Dated: 11/06/2026

e-TENDER FOR SUPPLY Of DRUGS

Online tenders are invited from licensed manufacturers for supply of drugs to UPMSCL. The details of tender, list of items and Tender Documents are made available on website https://etender.up.nic.in and www.upmsc.in. The last date/time of online submission of the tender documents is **29/06/2026 upto 15:00 Hrs.**

Managing Director
UPMSCL, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

Department of Medical Health & Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of Uttar Pradesh Undertaking)
GSTIN: 09AACCU2250P1ZZ; CIN: U85310UP2018SGC102425

Tender Ref. No.: GEM/2026/B/7646085 Date: 10-06-2026

Tender Notice Invitation

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited, Lucknow invites tenders on GeM Portal from eligible and qualified Manufacturer/Importer/Authorized Agent for supply of **Portable Impedance Audiometer-RBSK.** The schedules of Tendering activities are as here under:

S.N.	Activity	Date & Time
1.	Tender Reference No.	GEM/2026/B/7646085
2.	Commencement of Downloading of Tender Document	10-06-2026
3.	Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting	19/06/2026 at 4:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow.
4.	Last Date & Submission of Online Bids	01/07/2026 up to 13:00 PM.
5.	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids	01/07/2026 at 13:30 PM
6.	Date of Completion of Examination of Technical Bid	To be declared on GeM Portal
7.	Date & Time of Opening of Financial Bid	To be declared on GeM Portal
8.	Date of Completion of Examination of Financial Bid	To be declared on GeM Portal

The details of tender notice are given on GeM Portal & UPMSCL website www.upmsc.in. Kindly check GeM Portal & UPMSCL website for any detail & updates.

Managing Director, UPMSCL

Department of Medical Health & Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that our client **Mrs. K. Suma** is intending to enter into an Sale Agreement to purchase the Schedule Property, bearing Residential Site No. 250, having BDA katha pathra bearing PID No.6000081676, situated at Kodigehalli, Kothihosahalli and Byatarayanapura Villages, Yelahanka Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru, measuring East to West by 40 Feet or 12.19 Meters and North to South by 30 Feet or 9.14 Meters in all measuring 1200 Square Feet or 133.33 Square Yards or 111.48 Square Meters, Any person /s entitles having any claim, right, title or interest over the schedule property or any part thereof in any manner objecting the sale of the schedule property may lodge their claim with documentary proof with the undersigned within **7 days** from the date of this Public Notice, after which our client shall proceed to complete the sale transaction with the owner and any claim or objection received thereafter will not be binding over the schedule property.

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North : Site No. 249
South : Site No. 251

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SAFE DEPOSIT LOCKER BREAK OPEN PUBLIC NOTICE

The following hirers have availed safe deposit locker facility from the **Indiranagar branch** and failed to renew the same within the stipulated time, in spite of repeated notices issued to them by **The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.** Since the hirers have failed to pay the locker rent dues, we are constrained to break open of the said locker on the following dates, at the concerned branch premises at **10.30 AM.**

This Public Notice is to the hirers and also applies to their legal heirs of the deceased if any. A Copy of this Notice is sent by Registered Post with Acknowledgement Due (RPAD) to the Hirers/Legal Heirs to pay the total locker arrears within the date of break open. The notices are sent to the addresses available last with the branch.

The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd has the authority to change the Break Opening Date without any prior notice.

Sl. No	HIRER/s NAME	Locker No.	Amount Due (₹)	Date of Break open	Branch Address
1	VAISHAK BABU	1332007J031	47200	20.06.2026	316 Mayfair, 100ft Road Opp Post Office Metro Pillar 51 52 Indiranagar Bangalore, Karnataka, 560038 indiranagar@kvbmail.com
2	HARSHA VARDHAN R B	1332009F006	35400	20.06.2026	316 Mayfair, 100ft Road Opp Post Office Metro Pillar 51 52 Indiranagar Bangalore, Karnataka, 560038 indiranagar@kvbmail.com

Date : 11.06.2026
Place: Bangalore

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
The Karur Vysya Bank Limited

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Open Tender Notice No. BE-29-2026-27-OT-03 (Through E-Tendering)

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Tender No	Description in Work	Approx. Value	Tender Closing Date Time
BE-29-2026 -27-OT-03	**1)** Bengaluru-Tumakuru -Sampige Road Section- Proposed construction of ROB at LC.No. 50 @KM:85/700-800 42m composite Girder. **2)** Proposed construction of RUB at LC gate No.48 @kM 81/500-600 between Mallasandra and Gubbi stations in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Yasvantpur sub division. **3)** Bengaluru-Tumakuru - Sampige Road Section-Proposed limited height subway at old LC43 (RUB N0.297 B At KM:73/000-100 near Bheemasandra - RCC box of size 1x5x2.25 by rolling/ launching method. **4)** Yasvantpur-Sampige Road Section-Proposed subway at old Shettyhalli gate KM 67/700-800 near Shettyhalli- (Bridge No.308-D) RCC box of size 1x4x2.25 by rolling/launching method. **5)** Provision of Lifts at Gauribidanur Railway station for PF-1 & PF2 & 3. **6)** Provision of two escalators (down direction) at PF-1 & PF-2&3 of Kengeri railway station. (PID: 14.01.53.25.3.50.008) **7)** Jolarpettai-Bengaluru Section- Proposed Pedestrian subways to facilitate crossing of railway alignment by cattle, pedestrians and smaller vehicles in various locations as RCC Box of size 1x5mx2.65m (Barrel length = 18.36 mtrs) by Rolling/Launching method. **8)** Bengaluru-Sampige Road Section- Proposed Pedestrian subways to facilitate crossing of railway alignment by cattle, pedestrians and smaller vehicles in various locations as RCC Box of size 1x5mx2.65m (Barrel length = 18.36 mtrs) by Rolling/Launching method (total 11 Nos). **9)** Yasvantpur-Yelahanka Section- Proposed pedestrain subway at Sahakara Nagara at Km 13/200-300 near NTI layout-RCC box of size 1x4x2.25 by rolling/launching method in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Yasvantpur sub-Division. **10)** Provision of DG sets at Running Rooms and crew rest rooms over Bengaluru Division. **11)** Improvement of illumination in tunnel (600m length) near TASA at KM 42/750 - 43/350- Electrical arrangements. **12)** Bengaluru-Sampige Road Section - Proposed extension of FOB at Nidvanda station to accommodate Road-1A with stair & lift. **13)** Implementation of Investment Grade Energy Audit (IGEA) recommendations at 30 locations over Bengaluru Division.	Rs. 1,52,42,705.54	24-06-2026 / 15:00 Hrs.

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in, Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date

PUB/197/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27 Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/General /Bengaluru

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I, MOHAMED Yunus alias Mohd Yunus, S/o Mohammed Anwar, R/at No.17, 3rd Main Road, Near New Modern English School, Matadahalli, R T Nagar Post, Bangalore-560032 have changed my name to Mohammed Yunus Vide affidavit dated 09-06-2026 sworn before Notary Sivakumara.M.N, Bengaluru.

LOST & FOUND

MISPLACED INDIAN Passport of Sunil Kumar Bhimrao, Ppt No: H4926192 (Valid: 11–May–2009 to 10–May–2019) . Misplaced around Bengaluru. Finder please contact: 9380026614

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Contraceptive use and the weight women carry: insights from NFHS-6

India must invest in policies that move contraceptive use from compliance to choice: this will involve ensuring no girl is married before the age of 18, investing in rural secondary education, and increasing access to reversible scientific contraception methods

Trishna Sarkar
C. Saratchand

Reproductive rights: India's engagement with contraception dates back to 1952, when it became the first country to launch an official family planning programme but with women bearing a disproportionate share of the required responsibility. FILE PHOTO

Reproductive agency, the power to decide whether, when, and how to bear children is a vital and necessary component of women's empowerment, and yet, is often not taken into account when metrics of income, education, mobility and political representation are analysed.

India's demographic transition, as reflected in the latest round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6, 2023-24), besides revealing incremental changes in health indicators, also signals a structural shift in the domain of reproductive agency. Contraception, once framed primarily as an instrument of population control, is increasingly emerging as a marker of women's reproduction agency.

History of contraceptive use

India's engagement with contraception dates back to 1952, when it became the first country to launch an official family planning programme but with women bearing a disproportionate share of the required responsibility.

The following data, drawn from the NFHS-6 (2023-24) survey of currently married women aged 15- 49 years, maps the reproductive and contraceptive landscape across urban and rural India, and against the NFHS-5 baseline:

A striking finding in the NFHS-6 data is the persistence of early marriage. Nationally, 20.1% of women aged 20-24 was married before the age of 18, with the rural figure reaching 23.3% – unchanged from NFHS-5. Among men, 15.9% aged 25-29 were married before 21. These trends are not only legal failures, they are also healthcare setbacks.

A girl married before she has had the opportunity to complete secondary education or enter the paid workforce, confronts a significantly extended reproductive window. When contraceptive access is limited, awareness of healthcare attenuated, or agency within the family is negligible, unhealthy pregnancies, unsustainably more births, and heightened maternal and child health risk are the consequences. The data bears this out: 6.7% of women aged 15-19 were already mothers or pregnant at the time of the survey rising to 7.9% in rural areas.

From a public health standpoint, early marriage is not merely a social problem, it is a reproductive health emergency with lifelong consequences. Girls married young are less likely to know their contraceptive options, less likely to be able to negotiate their use, and more likely to undergo less spaced-out pregnancies. The cumulative physiological burden of anaemia, obstetric complications and maternal mortality is concentrated precisely in this demographic. Yet policy conversations about fertility routinely overlook the role of early marital unions, seeking to unsuccessfully treat the symptom (high fertility) while ignoring the structural cause (constrained reproductive agency).

The rural-urban divide in these figures is striking. Urban women tend to marry later, complete more schooling, and are exposed to a broader suite of contraceptive options. Rural women face the inverse: earlier marital unions, relatively less agency, and a healthcare infrastructure that, as we shall see, defaults to unattainable permanent solutions rather than investing in what is relevant: public healthcare.

Female sterilisation remains the dominant contraceptive method, accounting for 36.5% of all contraceptive use nationally and is as high as 38.1% in rural areas

On sterilisation

Female sterilisation remains the dominant contraceptive method in India, accounting for 36.5% of all contraceptive use nationally and is as high as 38.1% in rural areas. Male sterilisation, by contrast, stands at a negligible 0.5%. This gargantuan skew is the consequence of policy design and gender disempowerment.

The NFHS-6 data also shows a modest decline in female sterilisation from 37.9% (NFHS-5) to 36.5%, alongside a sharp rise in traditional method use (from 10.3% to 16.4%) and a slight decline in modern reversible methods (from 56.4% to 52.7%). Read together, these trends suggest that some women are able to step back from sterilisation – but into informal, less medically supported methods rather than towards reversible scientific methods that would authentically enhance reproductive autonomy.

Female sterilisation in India's public health system has a troubled history. The mass sterilisation camps epitomised by the Bilaspur tragedy of 2014, in which 13 women died following a single-day mass sterilisation drive are not aberrations but logical consequences of a system that treats women's reproductive capacity as a population management problem to be solved at scale, cheaply and rapidly. Tubectomies and sterilisation surgeries done in rural government hospitals can sometimes be risky – these facilities are overcrowded, staff are not always well-trained, and the focus is on performing as many procedures as possible rather than on scientific patient care. Women who go through these surgeries can get infections, complications from maladministered anaesthesia or failed procedures resulting in persistent morbidity. Most women are compelled to access what they can afford, namely underfunded public healthcare. Most women undergoing such procedures are not empowered to make an informed choice due to their being at the short end of the stick of the social reproduction and social production processes.

Towards reproductive agency

An analysis of the NFHS-6 data demonstrates that contraception in India is no longer merely about limiting births, but about enabling reproductive agency by overcoming the underlying unequal social architecture.

Three policy imperatives follow from such an analysis. First, early marriage must be addressed as a reproductive health crisis by retaining girls in school, fully implementing the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act and investing in rural secondary education for girls. Second, policy must pivot from unsustainable permanent methods of contraception toward increasing access for reversible scientific contraception through augmenting community based public healthcare. Third, the diminishing of the gender skew in contraception must become a programmatic priority of policy. Sustainable demographic transition presupposes reproductive agency of women.

(Dr. Trishna Sarkar is faculty at the department of economics, Dr. BhimRao Ambedkar College, University of Delhi. trishna.sarkar@gmail.com; Prof C. Saratchand is faculty at the the department of economics, Satyawati College, University of Delhi chandcsarat@gmail.com.)

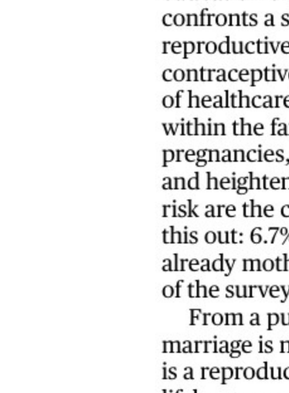
THE GIST

- Contraception, once framed primarily as an instrument of population control, is increasingly emerging as a marker of women's reproduction agency
- When contraceptive access is limited, awareness of healthcare attenuated, or agency within the family is negligible, unhealthy pregnancies, unsustainably more births, and heightened maternal and child health risk are the consequences
- An analysis of the NFHS-6 data demonstrates that contraception in India is no longer merely about limiting births, but about enabling reproductive agency by overcoming the underlying unequal social architecture

SNIPPETS

Latest updates from the world of health

Ingredient for sunscreen

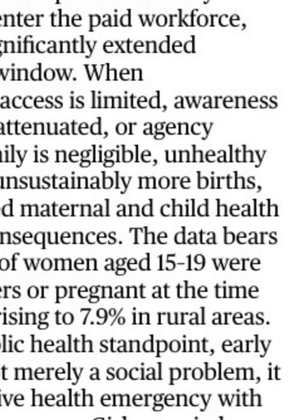


Reuters

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Tuesday said it added bemotrizinol to its list of permitted active ingredients, marking the first new UV (Ultraviolet) filter to be cleared for over-the-counter sunscreens since the late 1990s.

Bemotrizinol helps protect against both ultraviolet A and B rays and has low levels of absorption through the skin into the body, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said.

Support fund to fight Ebola



Reuters

The U.S. State Department said on Wednesday it would provide an additional $20 million to help fight the Ebola outbreak in Africa, bringing its total direct support to more than $220 million. The money will support preparedness efforts in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, and South Sudan, including for national emergency operations centres, as well as surveillance, testing, border screening and infection prevention and control.

AI dolls for loneliness

Agence France-Presse

Many older South Koreans are battling loneliness. The country has low birth rates and almost half the population is 50 or older. In 2024, it recorded more than 3,920 "lonely deaths", people dying alone and remaining undiscovered for extended periods. To combat this, authorities are providing AI care devices – some designed to detect signs of lonely deaths – to seniors living alone for companionship and safety-monitoring.

Misconceptions continue to deter men from getting vasectomies, say experts

Athira Elssa Johnson

A study published in the journal BMJ Sexual & Reproductive Health found that fears about loss of libido and physical weakness, social stigma, poor awareness and health system barriers continue to impede acceptance of vasectomy among married men in India

According to the findings of the sixth National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6), India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has remained at 2.0 children per woman, below the replacement level of 2.1. The survey also points to improved access to family planning services, with the contraceptive prevalence rate increasing from 66.7% in NFHS-5 to 69.1%. The burden of contraception, however, continues to remain shouldered largely by women.

Sterilisation, accounts for a significant chunk of contraception methods used in India. As per NFHS-6, male sterilisation (vasectomy) remains at a dismal 0.5%, barely a change from 0.3% in NFHS-5.

Experts say misconceptions surrounding vasectomy continue to discourage men from taking a more active role in family planning, placing a disproportionate share of the burden on women. A study published in the journal *BMJ Sexual & Reproductive Health* found that fears about loss of libido and physical weakness, social stigma, poor awareness and health system barriers continue to impede acceptance of vasectomy among married men in India, with uptake declining from 3.31% in the early 1990s.

Experts note that vasectomy is a simple, safe and highly effective long term contraceptive method that does not affect sexual performance or libido, contrary to these widespread myths. One of the most persistent misconceptions surrounding vasectomy is that it diminishes sexual function. However, there is no evidence to support these claims.

N. Ragavan, senior consultant-urologist, Apollo Hospitals, Chennai, said the belief is cultural and has no clinical basis. "Fertility should not be tied to misconceptions that equate a man's reproductive capacity with his masculinity as though fewer sperm somehow mean less manhood," he said, adding that vasectomy does not affect testosterone levels or sexual drive. The procedure merely involves blocking the sperm-carrying tube and does not interfere with blood supply to the testes or their normal function. It has nothing to do with libido or erectile function, he said.

Muthu Veeramani, director and senior consultant, urology, SIMS Hospital, Chennai, added that studies have consistently shown that vasectomy does not affect testosterone production, sexual desire or sexual performance.

Experts also sought to dispel the notion that vasectomy is a major surgery associated with serious health risks.

Vasantharaja Ramasamy, senior consultant, urology, MGM Malar Hospital, Chennai, said the procedure is usually carried out under local anaesthesia. After identifying the vas deferens (sperm duct) through palpation, a small incision is made and the tube is divided and sealed to prevent reconnection. Patients are discharged within a few hours and can resume routine activities after a couple of days, although heavy physical activity should be avoided for about a week.

Myths from social media

Doctors also rejected several myths circulating on social media, including claims that vasectomy causes obesity, cancer, infections or long-term health complications. Dr. Ragavan said there was no indication that the procedure increased the risk of obesity or cancer, and no scientific evidence to support such claims.

Despite being simpler and less invasive than female sterilisation, vasectomy continues to have low acceptance, especially in India. One major concern among men is that vasectomy is irreversible and could lead to regrets later in life. Experts emphasise that recanalisation procedures performed within three years of vasectomy have success rates exceeding 90%. Additionally, advances in microscopic surgery have improved outcomes when reversals are undertaken after proper counselling.

Greater male participation in reproductive health, doctors noted, would make reproductive healthcare more equitable.

(athira.elssa@thehindu.co.in)

FRIDAY
June 12, 2026

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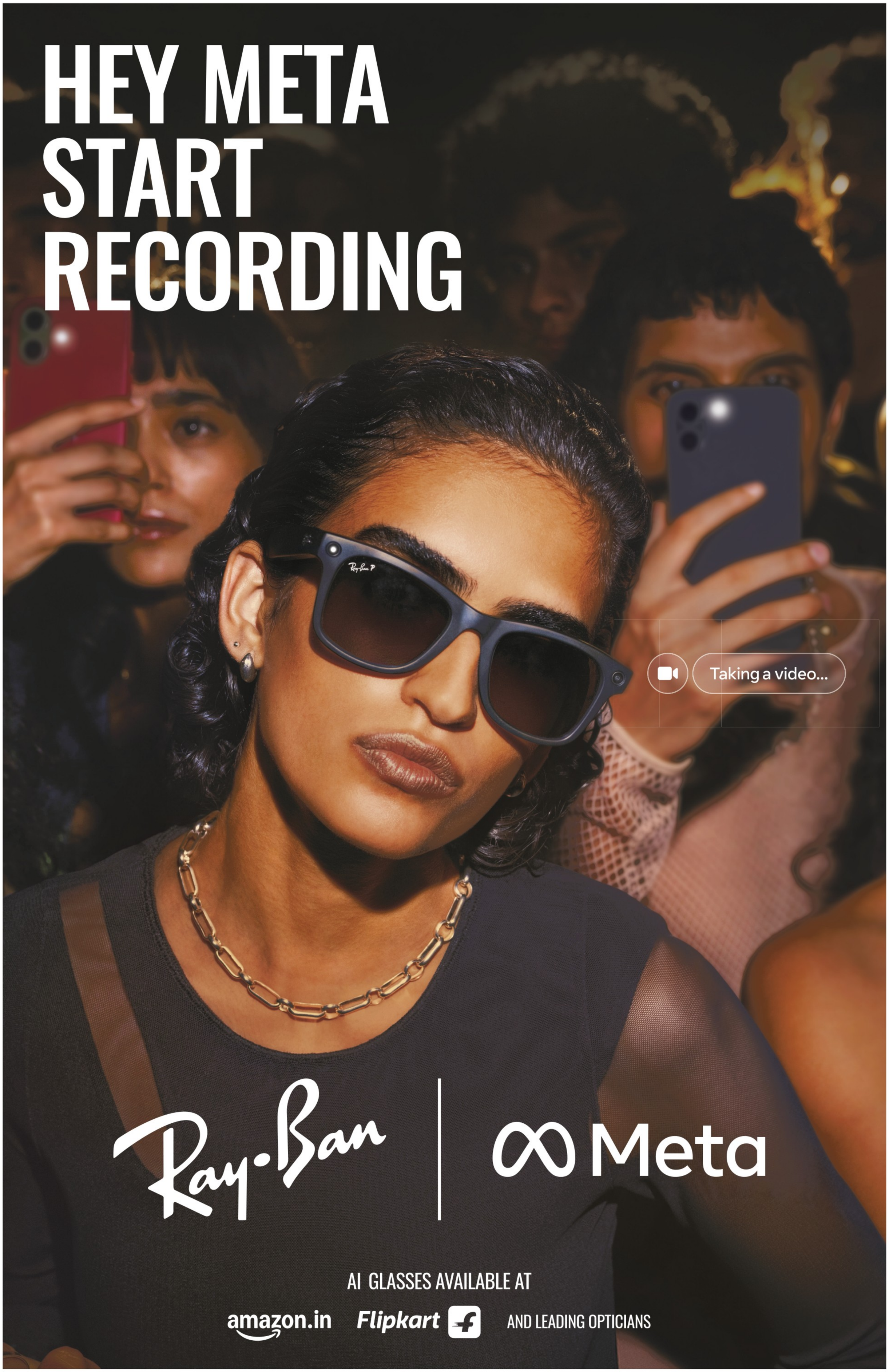
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THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Percentage increase in bank credit in May 2026

17 in per cent. Bank credit grew 17.44% year-on-year in May, marking the ninth consecutive month of double-digit expansion, reflecting sustained demand for loans from both retail and corporate borrowers, according to the latest Reserve Bank data. Since January 31 this year, credit growth has stayed above 13% and ranged between 14 and 17% thereafter. PTI

Opportunities presented by India's data centre ecosystem

280 in $ billion. Driven by the AI boom and rapid digital transformation, India's data centre value chain is projected to generate a potential order book of $280 billion by 2035, according to consulting firm PwC. While direct investments to build core data centre facilities are estimated at $71.6 billion by 2035, the broader ecosystem offers a larger opportunity. PTI

Estimated increase in India's horticulture production in 2025-26

2 in per cent. India's horticulture production is estimated to rise 2% to 377.77 million tonnes during the 2025-26 crop year, mainly on better output of fruits and vegetables, according to government data. According to an official statement, the area under horticulture crops stood at 301.51 lakh hectare in 2025-26, a marginal increase from 301.36 lakh hectare in the preceding year. PTI

People killed in drone strikes on the key Sudan city of El-Obeid

23 Drone strikes on the strategic Sudanese city of El-Obeid killed 23 people, a rights group and witnesses said on Thursday. The Emergency Lawyers group said the attack on the key hub in the southern Kordofan region began on Wednesday evening and continued into Thursday, striking residential areas, a funeral gathering and a truck carrying food supplies. AP

Migrants from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh to Gulf since 2010

19 million. A study has estimated that about 19 million people, averaging 1.35 million per year, have migrated from India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh to Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, and the UAE since 2010. Globally, West Asia experienced the highest total inflow of migrants, chiefly from South Asia and the Philippines. PTI

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Why is Nicobar debating elections?

Why are Nicobarese tribal councils wary of the administration's proposed election rules? How are Nicobarese leaders chosen today, and what changes do the draft rules propose? Why does the administration want formal elections for tribal councils? How could the proposed rules change Nicobarese self-governance?

EXPLAINER

Abhinay Lakshman

The story so far:

The centrally administered Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is planning to introduce elections, as they are conducted in the rest of India, to the Nicobarese tribal community's system of self-governance in the archipelago. This includes measures such as the delimitation of constituencies, the preparation of electoral rolls, and the reservation of seats and leadership positions for women in the community's tribal councils. This move has led to urgent discussions amongst existing tribal councils of the Nicobarese about how this might bureaucratise the governance they have been practising. Some have also suspected that it could be intended to have tribal councils that might be more favourable to the Union government's interests there, especially in Great Nicobar, where the current Nicobarese leadership has been opposing the Centre's ₹91,000 crore container port, airport, and tourist-townfield project.

The Tribal Welfare Department of the A&NI administration has said that it will wait till June 15 for suggestions and objections. FILE PHOTO

What do the draft rules propose?

The draft Andaman and Nicobar Islands Tribal Councils (Preparation of Electoral Rolls and Conduct of Elections) Rules, 2026, was notified by the district administration on May 15 this year and prescribes the exact procedure and rules for conducting 5-yearly elections to the Village Councils and Tribal Councils. The draft rules provide for conducting elections, the structure of the new representative system, the manner in which seats and constituencies are to be delimited, the rules for candidature, nomination, and withdrawal, their duties and responsibilities, and the broader administrative set-up for conducting these elections.

The proposed structure involves Nicobarese villagers electing five to nine Captains for each village and directly voting for the position of the Chief Captain of each Island Tribal Council. The First Captains of each village of a particular Island are to vote for the position of the Vice-Chief Captain of the Island Tribal Council, and this Island Tribal Council would include the Chief Captain, the Vice-Chief Captain, and all First Captains of the Island.

These draft rules have been notified under the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Tribal Councils) Regulation, a Presidential regulation promulgated in 2009 with the specific intent to bring autonomous self-governance to the Nicobarese community. Even though this Regulation provided the statutory language to set up the Village Council and Tribal Council structure, a key feature of this Regulation gave the district administration (through the Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner) an absolute and unilateral veto over any decision of the councils, if they posed a threat of injury or "annoyance" to the public or might "lead to a breach of peace".

Since the 2009 Regulation was passed, there have been several attempts at notifying Draft Rules under it, the latest one in 2020. The past iterations of the draft have often been circulated among tribal council leaders, but the leadership has not been able to successfully communicate the essence of these rules and procedures to the community at large.

Even though the Nicobarese community has been participating in Lok Sabha elections, according to officials from the Office of the CEO, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, this would be the first time a system of constituency-wise representative leadership structure will be implemented for Nicobarese self-governance if the Draft Rules are finalised.

How do the Nicobarese tribal councils function today?

The Nicobarese community, a designated Scheduled Tribe with a total population of about 30,000 across the Nicobar group of Islands, is traditionally represented by Tribal Councils that have been established over the last five to six decades. Each group of inhabited islands in the Nicobar has its own Tribal Council. Under this Tribal Council structure lies the village leadership, which comprises three Captains per village, headed by the First Captain and assisted by the Second and Third Captains. Including the Tribal Council of Little and Great Nicobar, seven Tribal Councils represent the Nicobarese community in islands like Car Nicobar, Nancowry, Kamorta, Teressa, and others.

Since at least the mid-1970s, experts and scholars have observed that the Nicobarese have been picking village captains through adult franchise. The concept of captaincy as village leadership first emerged in the 16th Century, when the Nicobarese who would go on board passing ships of colonial empires to negotiate began calling themselves captains. The British colonists were, however, the first to start legitimising the Captaincy structure as representative leadership of the community for their own administrative advantage towards the end of the 19th Century.

This structure eventually developed into a supplement to the social structure of large joint families, often referred to as *Tuhets,* that could become a formal channel of communication with the government.

The idea of the tribal council, however, emerged only in the 1990s to facilitate and ease the community's entry into Government developmental activities, specifically in relation to a Central government scheme of the time for poverty alleviation. Today, the Nicobar district says that the Village leadership and the tribal councils have become "the link between the Local Administration and the tribal people of the island... most of the developmental schemes are being implemented through them only".

How are leaders currently chosen in Nicobarese communities?

Even though authorities in the Nicobar district administration have maintained that under the current system, village captains are usually elected every four years, Anthropologist and community leader Anstice Justin has told The Hindu that "there is actually not much documentation on how exactly the leadership of the existing tribal councils operate".

A senior leader of the Tribal Council in Great Nicobar Island explained that elections for Captains and Tribal Council chairperson are held whenever the community feels the need for it. This leader, who is also the First Captain of his village on Great Nicobar Island, elaborated, "For example, the last time I was elected Captain was maybe around 2-3 years ago. There is a tradition in our community to get together for a village meeting. All residents of the village are present at this meeting."

The villagers then nominate names for the Captains of the village through popular consensus. These names are then put on a ballot paper. "We make the ballot papers and print them out ourselves, we appoint a polling officer from among us to conduct the ballot, and the person with the most votes becomes First Captain." He added that similarly, the Tribal Council on GNI has been choosing the Chairperson by popular consensus, but that it had been decades since there was an election to this position.

Villagers mostly think about candidates' level of education, fluency in Hindi (the language of government officials), "foreign" trips (an indicator of exposure to the world outside the islands), and "smartness" (the ability to deal appropriately with officials and outsiders, according to R. Venkat Ramanujam, Simron Jit Singh & Arild Vatn (2012). What Ramanujam et. al. noted, however, was that even though the Captains and Council were elected, "decisions were taken after popular consultation, usually through community meetings, and the tribal council did not have unilateral decision-making powers. Consequently, the captains were neither seen as lawmakers nor as "leaders" balancing social and political concerns."

Why are the proposed changes causing concern?

Tribal Council leaders who have spoken to *The Hindu* about the implications of the new Draft Rules said that the proposed structure is largely being seen as something that would disrupt their traditional ways of perceiving governance. The tribal council leader from Great Nicobar said, "We have been using this way of governing our villages for generations. We hold elections through consensus when needed, and our traditional ways of living are so well integrated into how we oversee the islands and villages. This looks like it will turn all of this into an office job that we will have to do in addition to the lives we live on the islands."

Meanwhile, Mr. Justin has noted that there is a real chance that an attempt to notify the Rules has come now in light of the opposition the government is facing from the Tribal Council on GNI, even though he acknowledged that systemic problems of opacity have riddled the existing system of Tribal Councils and Village Captaincy. "For instance, in several Island Tribal Councils, it remains unclear when the Chairperson was last elected and what kind of authority they wield," he said.

But experts like Mr. Justin, who have worked with the government on engaging with the indigenous communities of the A&NI, have doubted whether the entire Nicobarese community in the islands will have the time and resources to understand the Draft Rules as they have been notified, the context of the Regulation under which they will be implemented, and the implications of introducing such a system for their village-level governance.

The Tribal Welfare Department of the A&NI administration has said that it will wait till June 15 for suggestions and objections, after which a final version may be notified. While the Tribal Councils of Nicobar are yet to hand in a formal objection or suggestions, the Congress party in A&NI has already objected to them and called for their withdrawal, primarily citing the lack of recognition for the Tuhet system and the lack of consultation with the community before bringing this draft.

THE GIST

- Draft rules propose formal elections for Nicobarese Village and Tribal Councils, including constituencies, voter rolls, and reservations for women.
- Traditional governance is consensus-based, with village captains chosen through community meetings and locally conducted ballots rather than a fixed bureaucratic electoral system.
- Tribal leaders fear the proposed electoral system could bureaucratise their traditional governance structure and alter existing decision-making processes.

THE HINDU GROUP

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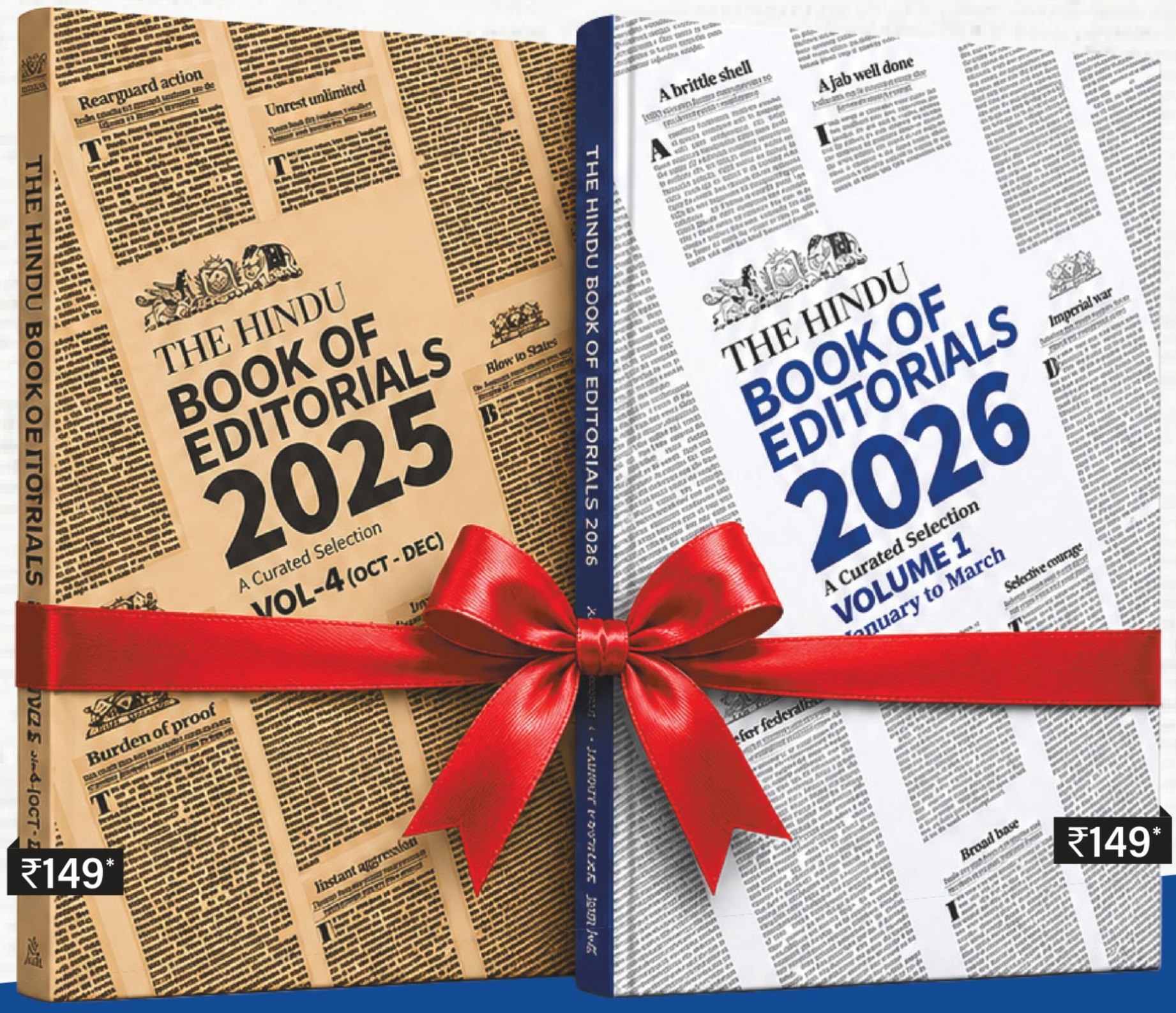

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J BG-BGE

‘Student suicide: Reforms in campus support systems needed’

National Task Force says there is no ‘foolproof mechanism’ to prevent student suicides, but stresses that institutional restructuring, effective grievance redressal systems, etc. can reduce student distress

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

The National Task Force (NTF) constituted by the Supreme Court to address mental health concerns among students and prevent suicides in higher educational institutions, has called for wide-ranging reforms in campus support systems, mental health services, faculty recruitment, and scholarship disbursal, saying student well-being must become central to higher education governance.

In its interim report, the task force said there is no “foolproof mechanism” to prevent student suicides, but stressed that institutional restructuring, effective grievance redressal systems, faculty support, and accessible mental health services could significantly reduce student distress. The report found major gaps in the availability and the quality of counselling services across campuses.

Data by the University Grants Commission (UGC) from 1,456 institutions showed that 27,136 individuals were reported as dedicated counsellors for nearly 59.8 lakh students. However, the task force observed that many institutions counted faculty members, placement coordinators, academic advisers, and Equal Opportunity Cell members as counsellors despite lacking formal mental health training.

Among 31 centrally-funded technical institutions surveyed by the Ministry of Education, only a handful reported having standard operating procedures for mental health emergencies, while none had postvention protocols to respond to student suicides. Explicit safeguards relating to privacy and confidentiality were reported by a very small proportion of these 31 institutions. The task force recommended that all campuses provide student-friendly mental health services delivered by qualified professionals and establish clear confidentiality protocols. It also called for periodic anonymous feedback from students to assess the effectiveness of campus mental health services and reduce stigma around seeking help.

The task force’s interim report finds major gaps in the availability and the quality of counselling services across campuses of higher educational institutions. PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE

When contacted, Seema Mehrotra, Professor of Clinical Psychology at NIMHANS and a member of the task force, said that the work of the task force is in progress and the final report is expected in a few months.

Survey findings

Preliminary findings from student surveys pointed to significant levels of distress among students. About 15% of respondents reported experiencing periods of anxiety, low mood or emotional distress lasting for weeks in the previous six months. Nine per cent said they had experienced suicidal thoughts often or very often during the past year, while another 21% reported such thoughts sometimes. While 82% of students said they had at least two to four close friends on campus, nearly 34% reported feeling like outsiders. Only 43% were aware of counselling services available in their institutions, while 32% said such services were absent and 26% were unsure whether they existed.

The survey also found that 36% of students were uncertain about whether they had chosen the right academic path, while 39% were worried about future employment prospects.

Structural reforms

The task force recommended that all vacant faculty positions be filled within three months, with priority given to those reserved for marginalised and underrepresented communities. Vacancies in leadership positions such as Vice-Chancellors and Registrars should not remain vacant for more than a month, it said.

It also called for mandatory accessibility audits and improved campus facilities for students with disabilities and transgender students, including accessible hostels, washrooms, sports facilities and academic accommodations. The report highlighted financial hardship as a major source of student stress and urged governments to clear scholarship backlogs. It recommended that no student should be barred from examinations, classes or hostels because of delays in scholarship disbursal. The task force proposed a national mechanism to maintain data on student suicides and urged the National Crime Records Bureau to separately classify suicides among school students and those in higher educational institutions.

The report noted that more than 3.6 lakh college students sought mental health support through government services in 2024, while over 1.54 lakh students contacted the Tele-MANAS helpline between October 2022 and October 2025. Of these, 5,642 calls related to suicidal concerns.

The task force said the findings underline the need for stronger mental health infrastructure, trained faculty, transparent administrative systems and responsive support mechanisms to address student distress before it escalates into tragedy.

Migration, logical issues likely to result in 12% voters deletions: Political groups

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

With multiple discrepancies emerging as the pre-Special Intensive Revision (SIR) mapping progresses, political groups and activists monitoring the exercise, who have cross-checked the records with Booth Level Officers (BLOs), have estimated that around 12% of Karnataka’s voters could face deletion during the revision process.

The estimate is based on documents reviewed as well as trends observed in other States where the exercise has been carried out, said members of Jagrutha Karnataka. The average deletion rate nationally has been around 10% to 12%, with Kerala being a notable exception.

The electoral rolls are also set to be frozen shortly. The Election Commission will freeze the E-Roll, the digital version of the official voter list, on June 16. Before the freeze takes effect, all pending applications under Forms 6, 6A, 7 and 8 will be processed. These forms are used for inclusion of new voters, registration of overseas (NRI) voters, objections to entries in the electoral roll, and correction or updating of voter details, respectively. Once the roll is frozen, it will serve as the base voter database for the next stage of the revision exercise.

While permanently shifted voter IDs are expected to account for a significant share of the deletions, activists said the exercise has highlighted difficulties in mapping women voters whose details changed after marriage. The issue is particularly visible among women who moved to or from neighbouring States such as Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, where linking records across locations has proved challenging.

Jagrutha Karnataka says the estimate is based on documents reviewed as well as trends observed in other States where the exercise has been carried out FILE PHOTO

The progress

- Statewide total electors 5.54 crore
- Electors mapped till June 11 5 crore
- Yet to be mapped 54.08 lakh
- Statewide mapping percentage (except GBA) 94.01%
- Mapping percentage within GBA 73.91%

Concerns were also raised over the category of “logical discrepancies”. Citing the example of West Bengal, where more electors were reportedly deleted under the logical discrepancies category than under the absent, shifted, dead and duplicate/deleted (ASDD) category, the association argued that the category could lead to arbitrary scrutiny. It said there is no clear definition of what constitutes a logical discrepancy, allowing the category to be interpreted broadly and expanded to cover a wide range of cases. Adding further, the association said that in one recent case in Tumakuru district, a BLO has reportedly linked 138 women to their fathers-in-law while completing a large number of mappings within a short period. Similar instances have also been reported in Bengaluru.

However, a father-in-law is not among the prescribed options for such mapping. The association argued that such cases, along with instances where voters have not submitted documents or where names and spellings vary across records, are likely to attract scrutiny under logical discrepancies during the verification process.

Within the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), Chief Commissioner and District Election Officer M. Maheshwar Rao recently said that 28% of electors could not be mapped during the exercise. While he clarified that non-mapping does not automatically lead to deletion, he said that such voters would need to furnish documents to establish their identity.

Members of the Jagrutha Karnataka said that the problem extends beyond duplicate entries. Given the scale of migration over the past three decades, they said many people, especially migrant workers from many districts, particularly north Karnataka, either lack the required documents or have different names and spellings across various records, making the mapping exercise more complicated.

In many cases, BLOs said that when they sought clarification from officials regarding cases where voters were not getting mapped to 2002 rolls or their parents in cases of progeny mapping, they were advised to refer to instructional videos and finish with the exercise.

Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka, V. Anbu Kumar, however, dismissed the concerns, arguing that no such estimate can be made until draft electoral roll is published.

Untimely rains lead to increase in fungal growth on onions

Rashmi Patil
BENGALURU

Onions entering vegetable markets in Bengaluru in recent days are covered with black fungus or mould, as untimely rains hit several regions before the southwest monsoon set in. This has also led to such onions being sold at lower rates. While unaffected onions are being sold at ₹20 to 25 per kg, those affected by fungus are being sold for ₹15.

Karnataka’s annual average production of onions is more than two million tonnes, but rains play an important role in cultivation. According to Horticulture Department officials, last year onions were grown on 1,52,000 hectares in the State, and every year the number of growers is increasing as they get returns within three to four months, unlike other crops.

K. Dhanraj, Joint Director of Horticulture (Vegetables), explained, “Black mould on onions is a post-harvest disease that is most prevalent during the rainy season, when there is higher humidity in the atmosphere, especially in Bengaluru. It is popularly known as *Aspergillus niger*. This post-harvest disease is seen in the Kharif harvest of onions. During the Rabi season, the harvest undergoes a process of curing when weather conditions are favourable, which helps dry the outer skin and prevents fungal growth during long-term storage.”

Karnataka’s annual average production of onions is more than two million tonnes, but rains play an important role in cultivation. SUDHAKARA JAIN

He added, “Such post-harvest diseases are not seen in dry weather conditions. Farmers make the most of dry weather and sunlight by spreading the onions. However, in rain-affected regions, fungal blight develops on the onions, and they also begin to rot from the inside. At present, in places like Challakere and Hosadurg, farmers have started sowing seeds for onion cultivation after the State received a few days of rain and the soil became softer. Districts like Vijayapura, Bagalkot, Gadag, and Koppal, among others, are known for growing onions.”

Mr. Dhanraj advised that farmers should maintain ventilated storage facilities. “Since it is both a Kharif and Rabi crop, the sowing season for the Kharif crop in Karnataka is in June, and it is harvested by the end of September. The sowing season for Rabi onion is in October, and it is harvested by the end of January or the beginning of February. The curing process usually takes 14 to 20 days after harvesting. Fungus appears if onions are harvested and packed within a day or two without adequate time for curing, but it develops gradually,” he added.

Meanwhile, Shalini M., associate professor, Department of Horticulture, said, “Such onions in the market have become more prevalent since early 2025 in rain-affected parts of Karnataka, as there is higher humidity in the atmosphere. The yield is obtained 90 to 110 days after sowing, depending on the variety of onion. However, after harvest, onions need to undergo the curing process, which means they must be left either in the fields or in a large room to dry well. In many instances, when farmers get good prices, they harvest onions and sell them to traders without curing. In such cases, black mould develops once they are stored in warehouses.”

The traders also highlighted how the low quality of onions in the market impacts the price of onions. B. Ravishankar, secretary, Bangalore Onion and Potato Merchants Association, said, “Consumers bargain when such onions are seen in the market. It is a loss to both traders and farmers. The price of onions starts from ₹5 and the premium quality ones cost between ₹25 and ₹30.”

He also highlighted how farmers in States such as Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra create proper storage facilities. “They design iron mesh structures and fix small fans inside them to prevent humidity. They also receive subsidies from the State government for creating such storage units. In Karnataka, too, the government provides subsidies for such initiatives, but fewer farmers make use of them. On any given day, each farmer in Maharashtra will have 20 to 50 bags of onions stocked to sell in the market when crops in Karnataka fail due to rain and prices automatically rise—sometimes to as high as ₹150 per kg,” he added.

University of New South Wales to operate its first campus in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

University of New South Wales (UNSW), Sydney, on Thursday received the Letter of Approval from the University Grants Commission (UGC) to establish and operate its first international campus in Bengaluru.

The Letter of Approval confirms that the UNSW Bengaluru campus meets the regulatory and quality standards prescribed by the UGC for foreign higher education institutions operating in India. Attila Brungs, Vice-Chancellor and president, UNSW Sydney, said, “We are set to commence classes in August 2026 at Embassy Manyata Business Park, the UNSW Bengaluru campus. We will initially offer undergraduate degrees in Business, Computer Science and Data Science, along with a postgraduate degree in Cyber Security.”

“Our globally recognised education model will be brought closer to Indian students while contributing to deeper academic and research collaboration between Australia and India,” he said. Prof. Brungs highlighted that Bengaluru’s position as a global technology and innovation hub makes it an ideal location for the UNSW’s first campus in India.

Philip Green, Australian High Commissioner to India, said, “ Because our campus is located within the business park in North Bengaluru which houses more than 60 multinational and Fortune 500 companies. The location can drive strong opportunities for internships, industry engagement, networking and experiential learning.”

BUSINESS CONNECT
A Business Initiative

Jayanagar celebrates four years of Bhima

Bhima is celebrating the fourth anniversary of its Jayanagar 4th Block showroom in Bengaluru with a three-day festival from June 5-7, 2026. To mark the occasion, customers can enjoy up to 60% off on making charges for Gold, Diamond, and Silver jewellery, along with a free 24-karat gold bar on every ₹1 lakh diamond purchase. The celebration will also feature a lucky draw, where one in every ten customers can win jewellery worth ₹10,000. The event will showcase a wide range of bridal, traditional, contemporary, and lightweight jewellery collections, offering exclusive benefits and a festive shopping experience.

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan to host ‘Chitra Bharati – A Tradition of Canvas’

As part of its Diamond Jubilee celebrations, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bangalore Kendra will host “Chitra Bharati - A Tradition on Canvas,” a national visual art camp from June 22-26, 2026, in Bengaluru. Supported by Prestige Group, the event will bring together over 50 eminent artists from 13 states to showcase and create a diverse range of traditional Indian art forms, including Kalamkari, Madhubani, Mysore, Gond, Warli, Pattachitra, and Tanjore paintings. Directed by Dr. Janardhan Rao Havanje, the camp will be inaugurated by Padma Shri awardee Dr. S. G. Vasudev on June 22. Open to the public, the event aims to celebrate and preserve India’s rich artistic heritage while offering visitors a unique opportunity to interact with artists and experience traditional art forms firsthand.

C. Krishniah Chetty Enters Digital Investment Segment with ‘MoneyPenny’

C. Krishniah Chetty has launched MoneyPenny, a digital-first, investment-linked jewellery savings plan aimed at younger consumers seeking flexible wealth accumulation options. The platform allows investments starting from ₹100 with no upper limit, fixed instalment schedule, penalties, or lock-in period. The 11-month plan enables customers to accumulate value across gold, diamonds, platinum, and silver through a Smart Averaging mechanism designed to mitigate market volatility. At maturity, customers benefit from the lower of the averaged or prevailing market price and can redeem their accumulated value across jewellery, silverware, gemstones, and accessories. MoneyPenny also offers incentives. “We are seeing a shift in how customers approach jewellery purchases, with greater preference for flexibility and digital convenience,” said Dr. C Vinod Hayagriv, Managing Director, C. Krishniah Chetty Group

IN THE LIMELIGHT

A still from '*Close Encounters of the Third Kind*'. COLUMBIA PICTURES

Before '*Disclosure Day*': how first-contact cinema taught us to imagine the Third Kind

For over a century, science fiction has used aliens to talk about empire, paranoia, language, and power — here is how first-contact cinema became a mirror for humanity's shifting fears and ambitions

Ayaan Paul Chowdhury

When Steven Spielberg releases *Disclosure Day* today, his first alien film in over two decades, he will be returning to the obsession that helped define his career. The veteran American filmmaker who transformed Devils Tower, Wyoming, into a beacon for cosmic pilgrims in *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* and turned a homesick alien into a beloved cultural icon in *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*, now finds himself at a curious moment in history. Unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP), the bureaucratically sanitised successor to the UFO, have migrated from grainy VHS footage to very serious U.S. congressional hearings and Pentagon investigations. The border between conspiracy theories and institutional scrutiny has grown increasingly porous of late, placing Spielberg's prodigal return alongside a broader public reckoning with the oldest question in the cosmos: are we alone?

Though ostensibly focused on extraterrestrial life, first-contact stories have consistently explored humanity's attempts to understand forces beyond familiar systems of knowledge. Across more than a century, extraterrestrials have played the roles of invaders, gods, refugees, mirrors, parasites, colonial powers, ecological warnings, and philosophical riddles. The shape of the alien has changed with each generation because the fears and aspirations projected onto it have evolved with time.

The earliest modern template came in 1898 when H.G. Wells published *The War of the Worlds*. Wells instinctively understood something many later imitators would spend decades rediscovering – the terror of contact emerged from powerlessness. His Martian invaders treated humanity with the same brutal apathy European empires had shown colonised peoples across Africa, Asia, and the Americas. The novel appeared during the height of British imperial expansion, yet its staying power came from forcing readers to imagine themselves on the receiving end of that violent conquest.

Alien invasion cinema throughout the 20th century inherited those anxieties, and the Cold War accelerated that trend. American sci-fi films of the 1950s turned extraterrestrials into vessels for political paranoia because the possibility of nuclear annihilation and ideological infiltration already influenced public consciousness. Don Siegel's *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* imagined entire communities replaced by emotionless duplicates, reflecting fears surrounding communist infiltration during the McCarthy era. Even hopeful films carried atomic-age dread. Robert Wise's original *The Day the Earth Stood Still* presented Klaatu as a benevolent visitor, yet his message centred on nuclear brinkmanship because the probability of self-destruction had become impossible to ignore.

By the late 1960s, first-contact cinema began asking different questions. Space exploration had expanded public imagination while Vietnam and Watergate weakened faith in institutions. Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey* abandoned invasion entirely in favour of cosmic mystery. The alien presence remained largely unseen, manifesting through monoliths that accelerated evolution and nudged humanity toward an unknowable future.

But few filmmakers embraced a sense of unbridled wonder with the unknown more completely than Spielberg. When *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* was released in 1977, it effectively rewrote the very grammar of alien cinema. Richard Dreyfuss' Roy Neary abandons his job, his family, and eventually his place in ordinary society because a brief glimpse of something impossible has broken his ability to care about anything else. When contact finally occurs at Devil's Tower, Spielberg and composer John Williams turn the climax into a strangely moving duet between a synthesiser and a spacecraft with a simple five-note melody.

That idea reached its fullest expression through Carl Sagan's *Contact* and Denis Villeneuve's *Arrival*. Both recognised that contact begins with communication. Jodie Foster's Ellie Arroway discovers a coded transmission from beyond and spends the film navigating politicians, engineers, and sceptics. Nearly two decades later, *Arrival* reduced first contact to language lessons inside a mist-filled spacecraft, where Amy Adams' Louise Banks tests the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis against heptapod visitors whose language reshapes her perception. *Project Hail Mary* reached much the same conclusion this year, treating communication as the foundation of an unlikely interstellar friendship and punctuating that first exchange with a wink to John Williams' iconic five-note *Close Encounters* motif.

First contact has also proven fertile ground for traditional UFO folklore and urban legends. M. Night Shyamalan's *Signs* draws heavily from crop-circle paranoia, filtering a global invasion through the anxieties of a grieving Pennsylvania family. Andrew Patterson's *The Vast of Night* recreates the world of 1950s switchboard operators and amateur radio enthusiasts in a small town. And Egor Abramenko's *Sputnik* channels a different strain of extraterrestrial mythology, embedding its creature within the secrecy of the Soviet military apparatus and the long tradition of state cover-ups that has accompanied UFO culture on both sides of the Iron Curtain.

Contrary to the *Independence Day* school of thought, alien invasions do not always occur within comfortable driving distance of Washington, D.C. – the genre's most fascinating variations often emerged beyond Hollywood.

Andrei Tarkovsky's *Solaris* depicted first contact as a confrontation with memory and grief, while Kiyoshi Kurosawa's *Before We Vanish* imagined invasion through the theft of human concepts themselves. Neill Blomkamp's *District 9* even relocated extraterrestrials into Johannesburg and framed them through the legacy of apartheid. And though it falls outside cinema, any discussion of modern first-contact fiction would feel incomplete without Cixin Liu's *The Three-Body Problem*, whose influential Dark Forest hypothesis argues that silence may be the universe's dominant survival strategy.

This holistic evolution helps explain why first-contact stories keep finding new life – every era tends to imagine the alien through its own dominant preoccupations. For over a century, science fiction has repeatedly asked what happens when humanity encounters something radically unfamiliar. Though the answers have varied according to circumstance, technology, politics, and culture, the question still persists.

Which brings us back to Spielberg. Details surrounding *Disclosure Day* still remain guarded, but its premise appears to revolve around the public confirmation of extraterrestrial life and the social aftershocks that follow. If the film succeeds, it will serve as a record of an era increasingly convinced that the unknown may already be here, even if the search for intelligent life elsewhere has repeatedly yielded uncomfortable findings much closer to home. Perhaps the truth was never really out there after all.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Here is a quiz to test your FIFA World Cup knowledge

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

N. Soorya Prakash

QUESTION 1
Which Goalkeeper holds the record for most consecutive clean sheets and as well as most consecutive minutes without conceding a goal in World Cup history?

QUESTION 2
Which Manager holds the record of having won the most tournaments in World Cup history?

QUESTION 3
Who is the only player to have won 4 medals in the World Cup history?

QUESTION 4
Which player has the distinction of having scored at least one goal in all five tournaments that he played?

QUESTION 5
Which was the first World Cup to be held outside Europe and the Americas, and who hosted it?

Visual Question:
Identify the player and what is the unique record that he possesses in World Cup history? THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Name his debut film made in 1977 that had Kamal Hasan, Rajinikanth and Sridevi and is considered an all-time classic in Indian cinema. **Ans: *16 Vayathinile***
2. What was the moniker given to him as a tribute to his directorial prowess and with what words (on screen) did he welcome the viewers of his films? **Ans: *Iyakkunar Imayam* (Pinnacle among Directors) and *Yen Iniya Tamil Makkale***
3. The first of his six National awards was for the Telugu film '*Seethakoka Chiluka*'. Of which Tamil work that introduced Karthik and Radha was it a remake? **Ans: *Alaigal Oivathillai***
4. Bharathiraja also dabbled in acting and in '*Rettaisuzhi*,' he shared screen space with another legendary filmmaker. Name him. **Ans: K. Balachander**
5. Known for introducing many a talent, which film of his saw the debut of the award-winning lyricist Vairamuthu? **Ans: *Nizhalgal***
6. 'Aakhree Raasta', the hit Amitabh Bachchan-starrer, was the Hindi remake of which Bharathiraja film? **Ans: *Oru Kaidhiyin Diary***
7. Who were the music directors for his National Award-winning films '*Vedham Pudhithu*' and '*Karuthamma*'? **Ans: Devendran and A.R. Rahman**
Visual: Name this Bharathiraja film, the only one he made with the thespian Sivaji Ganesan, said to have been inspired by writer Fyodor Dostoevsky's love life. **Ans: *Muthal Mariyathai***
Early Birds: Abhay Krishan | Amit Kumar | Pankaj Gharde | Bhavya Pandey | Santhiya Lakshmi

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

"Good grief! This article is full of mistakes. The author has spelt the word 'opposite' with an 'a'! How could..."
"....it isn't a mistake. The word 'apposite' does exist."
"It does?"
"Yes, it does. The 'a' in the first syllable is like the 'a' in 'act', 'fact' and 'tact'. The 'o' in the second syllable is like the 'a' in 'China' and 'amount'. The final syllable is like..."
"...is like the final syllable in 'opposite', I suppose?"
"You suppose right. Apposite means appropriate or suitable. It is a word usually used in formal contexts. For example, I can say, some of the objections made by the members of the Board were apposite."
"The Minister's remarks were not apposite to the discussion."
"Politicians seldom make apposite remarks."
"That's true. What happened in yesterday's final? Did your team win?"
"No, we didn't. Sujatha and Ramesh blamed themselves for the loss."
"I don't believe it. Sujatha usually blames the others. Do you mean to say she has changed?"
"Of course, not. She blamed Ramesh for our team's defeat."
"Well, in that case, Sujatha and Ramesh did not blame themselves."
"Yes, they did. Sujatha blamed Ramesh and Ramesh blamed Sujatha."
"If that is the case, they didn't blame themselves; they blamed each other."
"They blamed each other?"
"....when you say 'Sujatha and Ramesh blamed themselves', it means that Sujatha blamed herself and Ramesh blamed himself."
"I see. In other words, Sujatha felt that she was responsible for her team's defeat. She didn't think it was Ramesh's fault that the team lost."
"Exactly! And Ramesh feels the same way too. He, like Sujatha, believes that it was he who let the team down. Each one takes the blame."
"But when you say that they blamed each other, then...."
"....when you say, Sujatha and Ramesh blamed each other, it means that Sujatha blamed Ramesh for the defeat and ...."
"....Ramesh blamed Sujatha!"
"Exactly! Sounds more like the Ramesh and Sujatha we know, doesn't it?"
"It certainly does. In our country, political parties, instead of blaming themselves for the mess the country is in, blame one another."
"Politicians are always looking for a scapegoat."
"Right now, the scapegoat seems to be the country."
"Sad, but true. By the way, I need your help. Do you think...."
"....oh, I don't know. I am not...."
"....I will make you an offer that you can't refuse."
"Make me an offer that I can't refuse, eh? You watched Godfather during the weekend, did you?"
"That's right. It was great. I saw...."
"....yes, it was. Could you explain me why the third son...."
"Could you explain to me why. The word 'explain' is usually followed by 'to'."
"I explained to him why it was not possible."
"I explained to my boss why his plans could not be carried out."
"I am sure he was really happy to know that! It must have made his day."
"Very funny"
Published in The Hindu on December 12, 2000

Word of the day

Perforce:
by necessity; by force of circumstance

Synonyms: inevitably, necessarily, needs, unavoidably

Usage: *The road was blocked, so we perforce took another route.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/perforce

International Phonetic Alphabet: /pəfɔːs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Decentralised toll, new entry/exits worry traders

The NHAI is planning to establish toll collection points at various entry and exit locations along the 119-km Bengaluru-Mysuru Access Controlled Highway

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

The NHAI is planning to establish toll collection points at various entry and exit locations along the 119-km highway, replacing the existing system under which vehicles pay a fixed toll at designated toll plazas. K. MURALI KUMAR

Businesses that have come up near entry and exit points along the Bengaluru-Mysuru Access Controlled Highway are worried about their future as the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) plans to introduce a decentralised tolling system with multiple toll plazas across the corridor and is planning to shut existing entry/exit points on the stretch.

The NHAI is planning to establish toll collection points at various entry and exit locations along the 119-km highway, replacing the existing system under which vehicles pay a fixed toll at designated toll plazas. Under the proposed model, motorists will be charged based on the actual distance travelled.

However, the move has triggered concerns among entrepreneurs who have invested heavily in hotels, restaurants, fuel stations, commercial buildings, convenience stores, automobile service centres and other roadside businesses near existing access points, expecting a steady flow of customers from the 10-lane highway. Many fear that if entry and exit points are relocated, modified or closed as part of the new tolling arrangement, their businesses could suffer significant losses.

Anil Kumar, who started a restaurant around 350 metres from the Nidaghatta entry and exit point two years ago, said that the investment was made after assessing the location's potential to attract highway travellers. "I opened this restaurant because commuters using the expressway could conveniently exit here, have a meal and continue their journey. We invested our savings believing this access point would remain operational. Now we are hearing that some entry and exit points may be modified or closed as part of the new tolling system. If that happens, our customer footfall will drop drastically and we may face huge losses," he said.

Similar concerns are being voiced by property owners who have developed commercial infrastructure near the highway. Ganesh R., who constructed a commercial building near Byrapatna village and rented the space to few businesses, said that uncertainty surrounding future access arrangements has already affected commercial activity in the area. "I invested crores of rupees to build this property because the location was close to an entry and exit point. Several businesses have taken space here expecting customers from the highway. Recently, the entry point was closed and only the exit remains operational. Since then, many establishments have reported a decline in customers." Another entrepreneur Mahesh K.N., who is operating a fuel station and convenience store along the corridor, said that the NHAI should consult stakeholders before implementing major changes.

"We are not against development or a better tolling system. But the authorities should engage with local businesses and ensure that existing investments are protected. If access points have to be shifted, suitable alternatives must be provided so that businesses do not become isolated from highway traffic," he said.

NHAI tight-lipped about toll locations

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

While concerns continue to mount among business owners, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has remained tight-lipped about the exact locations of the proposed toll plazas and associated access points.

According to sources, the authority is deliberately withholding detailed plans to prevent speculative land transactions and artificial inflation of property prices along the corridor. "If proposed locations are revealed too early, there is a possibility of speculative land purchases and unnecessary escalation of land values. The objective is to avoid misuse of information, prevent panic among stakeholders and ensure that planning and land-related activities proceed in a transparent and orderly manner," an official source said.

According to officials, the new tolling system will be implemented at 14 locations across the expressway. The project also includes the construction of railway overbridges, underpasses and overpasses wherever required, at an estimated cost of ₹712 crore.

"The toll booths proposed under the new system will include loops and dedicated lanes to facilitate smooth entry and exit of vehicles. Toll charges will be calculated based on the actual distance travelled by motorists," an NHAI official told The Hindu.

The entry and exit points are expected to be developed in phases across different stretches of the expressway.

Officials said two entry and exit points are planned between Bengaluru and the Bidadi bypass. Another two points will be developed between Bidadi and the Ramanagara bypass.

The Ramanagara-Nidaghatta stretch, including the Channapatna bypass section, will have three entry and exit points. Two such points are planned between Maddur and the Mandya bypass, while four will come up between Mandya and Srirangapatna. One additional entry and exit point is proposed between Srirangapatna and Mysuru.

The NHAI officials maintain that the decentralised tolling model will improve traffic management and reduce congestion currently witnessed near toll plazas and service roads.

"Thousands of vehicles bypass the Kaniminike toll plaza every day to avoid paying the full toll amount. This results in significant traffic movement on service roads and local roads. By introducing distance-based tolling and multiple collection points, we expect traffic to be distributed more evenly and congestion to reduce considerably," an official said.

Students spot leopard on way to school

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Students of the Government Higher Primary School at Byrapura in N.R. Pura taluk of Chikkamagaluru remained absent for two days after encountering a leopard on their route to school.

The incident prompted Block Education Officer Shabana Anjum to visit the village on Thursday and interact with parents.

The children spread over hamlets Marathi Camp, Chowdigadde have been admitted to school at Byrapura. Every day, they walk about two to three km to reach their school. A few of them spotted a leopard when they were on their way back home on Tuesday. Parents wanted the district administration to ensure the safety of their children.

'Extend free travel option to metro services for students'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Officials say that implementing free or subsidised metro travel for specific categories of passengers would require approvals from both the State and Central governments. K. MURALI KUMAR

Following the Karnataka government's decision to provide free bus travel to students across the State, the Bengaluru Metro Commuters Association (BMCA) and students have urged the government to extend the benefit to Namma Metro users by introducing free or subsidised metro passes for students.

After taking charge as Chief Minister on June 3, D.K. Shivakumar announced a free bus travel scheme to students across the State.

In a statement, the association welcomed the announcement of free bus passes, but said the initiative would have a greater impact if students were also allowed to travel free of cost on the city's metro network.

The BMCA pointed out that unlike several public transport systems in the country, the Namma Metro currently does not offer concession passes to any category of commuters, including students and persons with disabilities (PwDs). The demand for such concessions has been pending for several years, it said.

According to the association, transport expenses should not become an obstacle to education. It argued that free metro travel would help students from different socio-economic backgrounds access educational institutions, libraries, coaching centres and other academic facilities across Bengaluru without placing an additional financial burden on their families.

Students who rely on the metro services for their daily commute echoed the demand. Lavanya S., a UPSC aspirant from Indiranagar, said a subsidised student metro pass would significantly reduce her monthly travel expenses.

"After attending college, I travel by metro every day to reach my coaching centre in Vijayanagar as well. The metro is the fastest and most reliable option for me because I have to travel across the city. While free travel would be ideal, even a discounted student pass would make a big difference. Many students like me depend on the metro several times a day and spend a substantial amount on commuting every month," she said.

Pavan Rao, a college student from Rajajinagar, said that the government's free bus travel initiative had brought relief to many students but noted that metro fares continue to be a major expense.

"My college is located near Hesaraghatta Road. I take the metro up to Dasarahalli and then continue my journey by bus. The free bus facility will reduce part of my travel cost, but most of my journey is still by metro. Since a large number of students depend on the metro network to reach colleges located across Bengaluru, extending concessions to metro travel would provide meaningful financial support," he said.

Officials of the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), however, said implementing free or subsidised metro travel for specific categories of passengers would require approvals from both the State and Central governments. "As the BMRCL functions as a Special Purpose Vehicle with the State and Central governments holding equal equity participation, any proposal involving fare concessions or subsidies has to go through multiple levels of examination and approval. Such decisions involve financial implications and require consensus from both stakeholders before they can be implemented," a senior official said.

Students to get refund on bus passes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Transport Minister Byrathi Suresh on Thursday announced that students who have already purchased bus passes would receive a full refund, as the State is set to roll out a scheme offering free bus passes to all students.

The Minister said that until now, free buses were limited to girl students under Shakti scheme. However, under the leadership of Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, the Congress government has decided to extend the scheme to boys as well.

"Guidelines for the scheme have been finalised and will be released shortly. Students will be able to apply for the free bus passes at KarnatakaOne and BengaluruOne centres within the next few days. Following verification of applications, the distribution process will begin," Mr. Suresh said.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, JUN. 12
RISE 05:53 SET 18:46
RISE 02:49 SET 15:53

SATURDAY, JUN. 13
RISE 05:53 SET 18:46
RISE 03:41 SET 16:59

SUNDAY, JUN. 14
RISE 05:54 SET 18:46
RISE 04:39 SET 18:07

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	31	21
Bengaluru	30	22

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of moderate rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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Rowdy shot in leg, arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 19-year-old history-sheeter was shot in the leg and arrested by the Hebbagodi police after he allegedly attacked a police constable with a weapon while attempting to evade arrest on the outskirts of Bengaluru on Thursday.

The accused, identified as Jeeva, is a rowdy-sheeter allegedly facing multiple criminal cases.

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From Page One

MLC Naseer Ahmed faces disqualification

They cannot, without BT's sanction, create charges or incur debt. They must inform partners, must disclose bankruptcy before specified transactions, cannot pursue legal action on debts without adjudicating authority's approval, and cannot travel abroad without permission.

The banks had extended various credit facilities to the company, for which Mr. Naseer, his wife and son, stood as personal guarantors. After the company's loan account was classified as a Non-Performing Asset (NPA) in 2018, the creditors initiated recovery proceedings. The insolvency resolution process against the personal guarantor was originally admitted by the NCLT in June 2022.

Though the NCLT had given adequate opportunities for Mr. Naseer and others to submit resolution/repayment plan, they failed to submit any plan following which the consortium of banks resolved to treat the absence of a repayment plan as a "deemed repayment plan" with 'nil' value and moved to seek bankruptcy.

Meanwhile, the guarantors contested the bankruptcy proceedings before the NCLT, by arguing that there exist no privity of contract between them and the banks as they had not executed any deed of guarantee in favour of the banks. The trio had also contended that the guarantee deed was executed in favour of a security trustee, SBICAP Trustee Company, and not directly to the banks.

However, NCLT rejected these contention by pointing out that the creditor-guarantor relationship between the bank and them was already established before it in 2022 itself . It clarified that pendency of recovery proceedings before the Debts Recovery Tribunal does not bar proceedings under the IBC, as remedies are independent and concurrent.

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ISSN 0971 - 751X

People carrying out works under the MGNREGA at Honna Kiranagi near Jewargi taluk in Kalaburagi district. The scheme was introduced in 2006 to legally guarantee the 'right to work', combat chronic poverty, and serve as a social security net. ARUN KULKARNI

No guarantee of right to work?

Hailed as one of the most important social welfare laws for making the State accountable for providing dignified livelihoods, MGNREGA 2005 is set to be replaced by VB-G RAM G 2025. Sections of workers argue that the new Act strips the scheme of its core promise, the right to work backed by a guarantee, writes **Rishita Khanna**

Until 2007, Srilakshmi worked in jowar fields in Belagavi's Athani taluk for ₹40 a day and a ration of two kg of grain. Men alongside her earned ₹65 and the same ration. During lean months when work dried up, she joined nearly 50 others from the taluk migrating over 100 km to Kolhapur in Maharashtra, where they worked for over 60 days, cutting leather into straps and soles and finishing Kolhapuri chappals, earning ₹120 a day with accommodation.

For Srilakshmi and thousands who migrated for work, equal wages, guaranteed employment within 15 days, and compensation for denial was unthinkable. These promises formed the basis of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA).

Women have accounted for over 58% of MGNREGA workers for the last five years. ARUN KULKARNI

Right to work

Hailed with the social message of "*Har hath ko kaam mile, kaam ka pura daam mile*" (every hand should get work, and every worker should get the full value of their labour), MGNREGA was introduced in 2006 to legally guarantee the "right to work", combat chronic poverty and serve as a social security net, with workers saying it gave them something they were long deprived of - bargaining power.

"It was MGNREGA that first recognised women as workers in their own right. That was when many of us first saw our names on job cards and opened bank and post office accounts in our own names," Srilakshmi said.

Proudly narrating the women's first collective demand for work, Bharathi Santosh, a worker from Raichur, said 120 women had gone to the block office in Sindhanur seeking employment. "The officer had never seen so many women turn up asking for work," she said. Two days later, many were allotted work. "Four hours of work and equal income. That felt powerful. We felt equal," she said.

Women have accounted for over 58% of MGNREGA workers for the last five years, as per official data.

End of MGNREGA

After completing 20 years in February this year, MGNREGA is set to be replaced. Starting July 1, the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin), 2025 (VB-G RAM G Act) will be rolled out nationwide.

VB-G RAM G has triggered sharp resistance from sections of workers, who argue that it guarantees "unemployment" under the pretext of a guarantee scheme. Workers argue that the new Act kills the "soul" of the scheme - by shifting from a "demand-based" entitlement to a "supply-driven" model, where funds are no longer open-ended but capped.

Even before the Act is rolled out, the transition has left workers without work. The Act was earlier announced to come into effect in April 2026 and was then postponed to July.

> It was MGNREGA that first recognised women as workers in their own righ
>
> **SRILAKSHMI,** worker from Athani

"From March till June, Form 6 was not available across gram panchayats. We were only told that new forms will come under the new Act, nothing beyond that," said Krishnappa from Raichur. "This is the peak season. The income cycle revolves around wages - from buying seeds or repaying small debts taken to surviving the lean period until the next round of work begins. If that cycle breaks, there is no way to manage even basic expenses," he said, adding that new worksites were not being opened despite assurances that MGNREGA would continue until the new Act comes into effect.

125 vs 100

The scheme proposes 125 days of work, compared to the 100 days guaranteed under the MGNREGA. The government has invited objections to the draft rules ahead of rollout. However, workers say their only demand is that VB-G RAM G be immediately and unconditionally halted.

Workers and unions such as the NREGA Sangharsh Morcha said the law was passed through both Houses of Parliament in less than a week, and the same continues in the draft rules process. The rules, released on May 23, 2026, gave stakeholders until June 21 for feedback, even as rollout is set for July 1. Unions wonder if these inputs will be considered at all if the decision has already been made.

Power dynamics

Arguing that the changes could reshape wage dynamics across labour markets, Rajendran Narayanan from NREGA Sangharsh Morcha said the MGNREGA created a wage floor below which private employers found it harder to push workers. "If employment under the scheme is restricted or suspended, large numbers of labourers are pushed into the private labour market at once, weakening bargaining power and benefiting large landowners and employers, while landless labourers and women workers lose out," he said.

He added that the issue goes beyond workdays, as MGNREGA provided an alternative source of income and the ability to refuse exploitative wages, and reducing it inevitably shifts power back towards employers.

Capped employment

Notably, while the new Act increases the workdays, it also caps the total amount of work that can be generated. Unlike MGNREGA, where work expanded with demand, the new framework ties jobs to a fixed annual "normative" allocation for each State. Once this central cap is exhausted, additional demand is not met unless States fund it, turning an open-ended entitlement into a budget-restricted system.

Split the bill

The scheme is also structured on a 60:40 funding model, with States expected to contribute 40% of the cost, unlike MGNREGA where wage payments were fully funded by the Centre.

Workers argue that similar Centre-State cost-sharing patterns, as seen among ASHA and Anganwadi workers, often lead to delays in wage payments when either side of funding is disrupted. Even under MGNREGA, they argue, wage revisions over time did not keep pace with inflation.

The funding model has also drawn criticism from the Karnataka government, which has argued that States are already under fiscal stress and cannot shoulder the burden of contributing 40% of the funds.

The Union government on June 9 released the interim budget for VB-G RAM G. Karnataka has been allocated ₹5,709.9 crore under the Act. Announcing the release, Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that Karnataka, along with Jharkhand, Telangana and Mizoram, is yet to complete all procedural formalities. The total allocation for States under the interim budget stands at ₹92,550.17 crore.

Not perfect

Workers' unions acknowledged that MGNREGA was not perfect, citing delayed fund releases, wage payment backlogs and excessive digitisation as recurring post-COVID concerns, and acknowledging that even the legal guarantee of 100 days was rarely met. While households were entitled to 100 days of work, data shows average employment per household as close to 45 days.

In 2025-26, the average wage rate per person per day was ₹342, up from ₹282.2 in 2021-22, an increase of only ₹59 - which workers say does not reflect rising living costs.

However, workers like Chetana from Dharwad argued that if a demand-driven programme backed by a legal guarantee, open-ended funding commitments and full central support struggled to provide 100 days of employment, how can a scheme built on capped allocations, shared state funding and periodic work stoppages realistically deliver 125?

Right under question

"We are told work will be given only if a requirement is identified, approved and funded. If there is no approved project or the budget is exhausted, there is no work. That means it is no longer a guarantee, and the uncertainty decides whether we migrate," said Mahantesh, a worker from Kalaburagi. He added that work under the Act will be identified by the Union government and if priorities lie elsewhere, workers will have to migrate for work. "How does someone sitting in Delhi know what is the need in Raichur or Belagavi or anywhere? How is that a right to work?" he contended.

Workers argue that the new Act is not a replacement for MGNREGA in any real sense. "Replacement means something better, beyond changing name. Something that reflects current realities and is framed after consulting the people it affects," said another worker Mahesh from Grameena Kooli Karmikara Sangha (Grakoos), emphasising that for labourers, power lay in the gram panchayats - the first point of access for any household seeking work.

"Every December, a gram panchayat meeting would be held where we put forward our demands. Work was planned and implemented accordingly," said Gayathri Anjappa from Hubballi. She added that the gram sabha decided village works, with "the village's priorities" guiding planning. Under VB-G RAM G, however, access to work depends on central priorities, notified areas and approved schemes through Viksit Gram Panchayat Plans (VGPP).

Pause window

Another provision drawing criticism is the 60-day "Seasonal Alignment Window," under which State governments can suspend all VB-G RAM G works for up to 60 days a year during peak sowing and harvesting seasons. Workers are expected to return to the private labour market during this period, and since it is treated as an administrative pause, no unemployment allowance is payable.

Workers say this marks another shift from MGNREGA, where work could be demanded throughout the year. "Karnataka's uneven geography makes such a blanket pause problematic, as drought-prone north Karnataka depends far more heavily on the scheme than the south, and a uniform shutdown could hit the poorest regions hardest, leaving migration as the only option," argued Krishnappa, a worker from Koppal.

The provision around pause-window rests on the assumption that demand for work falls during monsoon months - a claim contested by workers. In Karnataka, 34.5 lakh people demanded work between June and August alone in 2025-26.

'Excessive digitisation'

Excessive digitisation has long been flagged as a problem under MGNREGA, with workers complaining that the National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) used for attendance is often affected by poor connectivity, server failures and facial recognition errors, leaving workers marked absent despite completing work and losing wages.

They say a system meant to improve transparency has instead become a barrier to wages. Even the Parliamentary Standing Committee report in April 2025 had even recommended pausing NMMS until glitches were fixed and strengthening offline systems, noting that technology should enable access to work, not block it.

Workers argue the new Act pushes further in the same direction. "Despite repeated complaints, VB-G RAM G relies even more on digital and biometric systems for attendance, payments and monitoring," said Raja K., another worker, adding there is still no clarity from the Centre or State on implementation. "If workers can lose wages because a photo fails to upload or a server crashes, what happens when the system becomes even more dependent on technology?" he asked.

Money talks Manoj Bajpayee in a still from *Governor*.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Never back down

Actor Manoj Bajpayee, whose *Governor* is set to hit screens this week, addresses the problem of the relentless chase for box office numbers

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"In times of scarcity, you find creative ways to express yourself," says Manoj Bajpayee, joining the huge number of people having an opinion about the latest sensation, *Obsession*. The veteran actor sees the monstrous hit psychological thriller as a hope for independent cinema, a format he has always supported.

"In India, there are no funders and mentors for independent movies. Every indie filmmaker faces the struggle of exhibiting their work," he adds. "That said, the young generation is well-equipped with technology. They are making short fictions on reels. Look at *Obsession*, it's the best example to not lose hope in independent cinema."

Bajpayee is gearing up for the release of *Governor*, a theatrical film based on India's financial crisis in the early 1990s. He plays S Venkitaramanan, the former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, who battled national bankruptcy to rescue the country's economy. Set to release on June 12, the Hindi movie is directed by Chinmay D Mandlekar.

In the last decade or so, Bajpayee has seamlessly balanced his career between theatrical and OTT spaces, and he has sharp observations about the changing nature of the formats. "We should stop talking about box office returns. That's one change I want to see in Bollywood," he opines. "Only the producer should be worried about numbers. Managing money is his area of expertise, and he should deal with it. Audiences and film critics must talk about the craft. And directors and actors must focus on delivering a quality movie. We must stick to our roles."

> ***We should stop talking about box office returns. That's one change I want to see in Bollywood. Only the producer should be worried about numbers. Audiences and film critics must talk about the craft***
>
> **MANOJ BAJPAYEE**
> Actor

With the debut season of *The Family Man* in 2019, Bajpayee reinvented his career. The OTT space gave the gifted actor a second wind. Today, Bajpayee feels that people are experiencing fatigue with OTT shows. "I fear that OTT is going the TV way," he points out.

"Somewhere, people who run the OTT platforms are conscious about reaching everybody in the household. It's like they want every woman in the house to watch their shows. The moment you think like that, you are going the TV way. *The Family Man* stayed true to its genre yet had unique elements. You must always look to break new ground in the OTT space."

He continues, "When you explore the freedom a platform gives, the results will be wonderful. I essayed several complex characters. Most of my shows have got great views. They are OTT hits. My career proves why you shouldn't go the conventional way."

For Bajpayee, it wasn't easy to play Venkitaraman, the man who managed an unprecedented financial emergency during a period of extreme political turnover. He had to understand the historic episode as well as know the approach of Venkitaraman to the crisis to bring out the character convincingly.

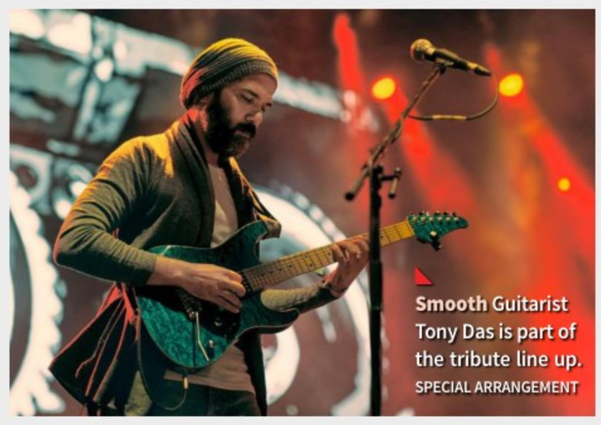
"We know that the majority of the people who come to watch our film aren't well versed in economics. The financial crisis is the backdrop of the movie, but we have tried to showcase how intense the crisis was. Without confusing viewers with too many statistics, we want to tell them how the country was on the verge of bankruptcy and how one underdog responded to the difficult situation.."

With *Governor*, Bajpayee seems to be done with complex characters. "I want to enjoy on the sets," he laughs. "I want to play a fun character who sings and makes people laugh." That doesn't mean he intends to star in the next big-budget 'masala' film. "Big-budget movies don't attract me. What matters to me is the story and the scope for performance, and not the scale."

Governor *releases in theatres on June 12*

Everybody's everything

The Humming Tree will host One Night at bFlat: A Tribute To Santana, at its premises this weekend



Smooth Guitarist Tony Das is part of the tribute line up.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

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Every once in a while, the stars align and what may have been improbable is suddenly in the realm of the possible. For old Bengalureans and music lovers, the erstwhile bFlat returns with its brand of music to The Humming Tree this weekend.

Titled, One Night at bFlat: A Tribute To Santana, this revival stems from the long-standing rapport between Arati Rao and Sunil Shetty of bFlat, and Nikhil Barua, founder of The Humming Tree.

Though both venues downed their shutters in October 2019, Humming Tree reopened earlier this year. In its heyday, bFlat was known for giving local musicians a platform whether it was the blues or indie melodies and the Humming Tree too, had its own demographic with occasional crossovers that celebrated music.

"We used to curate events where we would create an ensemble of local musicians who would cover the work of a specific artiste noted for shaping our musical sensibilities," says Arati, adding the organisers felt this collaboration should follow the same format.

As for their choice of artiste, Arati says, "Santana has inspired guitarists around the world and continues to do so. Most audiences love his complex Latin rhythms."

The evening will feature a core band of musicians – Ranjith Samuel on the guitar, drummer Preran Gulvady, bassist Osi Gomango and Joshua Pereira on the keys – performing with guest artistes such as Bruce Lee Mani, Venky Nayak, Aakarsh Paul, Imraan Jamal and others.

Debjeet Basu, founder and lead guitarist of Perfect Strangers, with fond memories of playing at bFlat, is one of the guest artistes playing in the tribute. "I believe each of us on stage have been influenced by his music or played his covers at some time or other because Santana's tunes are quite unique; it's not just youthful rock, but an entire Latin American vibe."

One Night at bFlat: A Tribute to Santana will take place at The Humming Tree on June 13, from 9pm. Tickets starting at ₹499 available on Skillboxes

STEPOUT

Puff piece

To mark National Egg Puff Day on June 13, Lavonne is organising an egg puff crawl through the city's best bakeries that will culminate in a baking session at the academy. The event will be hosted by chef Avin Thaliath, co-founder of Lavonne Academy.

The crawl will start from Excelsior Bakery, Shivaji Nagar on June 13, 11am. Tickets priced at ₹2,000 available on puttingscene.com

Naturally ours

Bindu & Rekha, a solo exhibition by 15-year-old artist Sai Akhil Anand, presented under the patronage of the Sandeep & Gitanjali Maini Foundation, will go on view shortly. It showcases a thoughtful body of work exploring animals, patterns, repetition and mathematics, found in the natural world.

At Sandeep & Gitanjali Maini Foundation, Lavelle Road, from June 14 to June 30. Mondays closed, entry free.

Musical landscape

As part of Fête de la Musique 2026 and the wider Month of Music celebrations, the French company bAlllAd, which transforms public spaces into immersive participatory performances, will come to the city as part of its all-India tour.

At Alliance Française de Bangalore, Vasanth Nagar on June 13, starting at 8pm and at NGMA, Kasturba Road on June 14, starting from 4pm.

Brine and dine

This modern European restaurant leans into a brutalist design language, pushing the envelope with dishes such as duck tea noodles, koji striploin and corn ice cream

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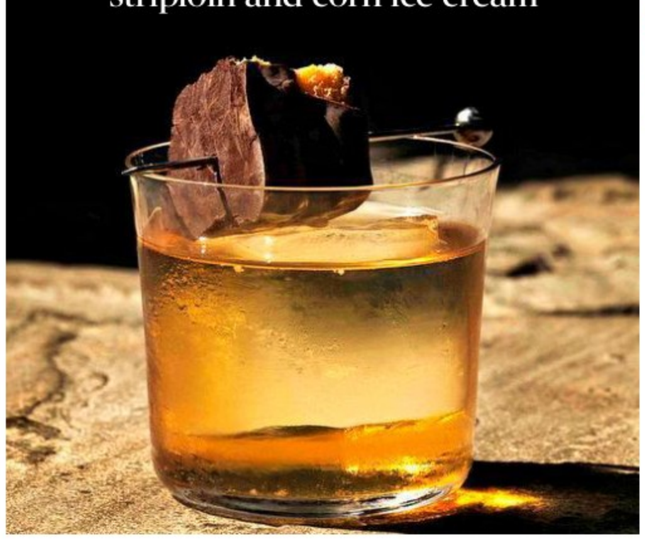
The duo behind Bengaluru's OG wood-fired pizzeria Brik Oven, has grown up. And in those ten years, so has Bengaluru. It is only natural that Anirudh Nopany and Sreeram Anvesh's newest offering is a mature, technique-driven modern European restaurant. Brine is located in Indiranagar and riffs on European cuisine with chocolate jus on their steaks and miso guajillo vinaigrette on their salads.



Indiranagar calling Anirudh Nopany and Sreeram Anvesh's newest offering is a mature, technique-driven modern European restaurant SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Vibe shift

As you enter the restaurant located on 80 Feet Road, it is the imposing brutalist style interiors that greet you first. Austere gray walls, glass block tiles, and wooden furniture make up the place. Textural lantana and cane statement pieces stand at the centre. The vibe is buzzy and even on a weeknight, there is a crowd.

The menu spans only two pages, with a clear modern European inclination. The honey toast is a small loaf of bread that is crisp on the outside and pillowy inside. It is topped with a swirl of blue cheese and Sichuan peppercorns, that contrast with the sweetness of the honey.

The chicken skewers are marinated in a Japanese tare and almond arbol sauce. It is smoky and spicy. The tiger prawns have seafood-forward sauces of prawn chilli oil and prawn butter. The triple cooked potato wedges are served with an in-house made tomato jam and hot sauce, which elevate the taters. The haloumi burger is a little salty, but the homemade potato bun takes the dish to another level.

Shake it up

The cocktails are named after one key ingredient. We try the Cheese, made with vodka, Gruyère cheese, Lapsang souchong tea and apple. The apple notes dominate, with the saltiness of the cheese coming through later. Salt and Pepper is a spicy number with three pepper gin, bitters, vermouth and brine.

While the starters are all winners, the mains are a hit and miss. First the good stuff. The miso fettucine is the perfect balance of creamy and umami. The black garlic on top adds another dimension. In the roasted tomato risotto, the rice is cooked al dente and just right. The tomato vinegar used in this dish is balanced and made in house.

The orecchiette pasta has a parmesan foam topping that is too dairy-forward and the mushroom flavour of the dish gets lost in it. As a cabbage lover, I am not impressed with the charred cabbage, as the vegetable is rawer than I would like. The sauce of the dish though, is delicious.

Dessert brings it right back. The corn ice cream is light and almost sorbet-like. The flavours are subtle, but when paired with the popped amaranth grains, it is nutty and popcorn-ish. They also offer an orange French toast, and a dark chocolate crémeux, but we save these for our next visit.

Brine stands out in a sea of restaurants in Indiranagar thanks to its design- and technique-forward approach.

₹3,000 for two. At Indiranagar, 80 Feet Road. Open for dinner, Tuesday - Sunday. For more details, call 07338537171

'Bengaluru needs greater Central aid due to heavy migrant influx'

At NITI Aayog meeting, Chief Minister says States must work as equal partners designing solutions tailored to diverse regional realities; Shivakumar also suggests strengthening urban and regional economic growth centres

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Seeking additional infrastructure grants for Bengaluru to cope with increasing demands owing to migration from other States, Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday said that States must work as equal partners designing solutions tailored to diverse regional realities.

"Around 40% of Bengaluru's residents come from other States. Hence, a strong push for coping with its infrastructural upgradation requires Central assistance. The State has identified and started implementing infrastructure projects worth ₹1 lakh crore in Bengaluru for mobility and making the city climate change resilient," the Chief Minister said in the 11th meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog at Delhi.

Power centres: Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Thursday.

Global city

"We seek higher support from the Centre under the Urban Challenge Fund or otherwise to support these programmes as Bengaluru retains its status as a global city. We have requested sanction for Rapid Rail Transit Systems (RRTS) to connect central Bengaluru with satellite towns and cities such as Kolar, Mysuru, Tumakuru, and Chickballapur," he said.

He also suggested strengthening urban and regional economic growth centres to generate quality employment opportunities beyond Bengaluru.

Urging the Centre to incentivise States for measurable improvements in nutrition, health, learning outcomes, skilling, employment generation and sustainable indicators, Mr. Shivakumar sought one-time infrastructural grant to government schools and colleges to provide quality education on a par with the private sector.

He also sought continued support from the Centre in promoting heritage conservation, enhancing air connectivity, facilitating tourism investments, and strengthening destination governance.

Centralised job portal

The Chief Minister also suggested building resilience against global economic and geo-political uncertainties through investments in technology, research, and human capital.

"Enforce CSR rules through the Ministry of Corporate Affairs to focus on improving rural health and education infrastructure within the given time frame," he suggested, urging the industry to share job requirements through a centralised job portal with skill parameters for the next three years.

Bold action

He said rapid technological disruption, climate change, and global competition demand bold and coordinated action between the Centre and States.

"The vision of inclusive human development can only be realised through cooperative federalism, collaborative governance, and collective national efforts. States are not merely implementing agencies but hubs of innovation and cumulative growth. Karnataka remains fully committed to partnering with the Centre and other States to ensure that growth is inclusive and sustainable."

During his visit to Delhi, Mr. Shivakumar also met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Finance Minister Nirmal Sitharaman and submitted memoranda to them on issues pertaining to the State.

What Karnataka has asked for

- Expeditiously clear **Mekedatu** drinking water project
- Notify **Krishna Water Dispute** Tribunal II award
- Release of **₹5,300 crore** Central assistance to Upper Bhadra project
- Clear **Kalasa and Banduri** project
- Provide at least **40 to 45 tmcft** water in Godavari-Cauvery and Bedthi-Varada projects
- Provide **₹26,000 crore** special grants to strengthen infrastructure
- Approve Bengaluru **Satellite Town Ring Road**
- Release funds for Bengaluru **Suburban Rail** and launch Bengaluru-Mumbai **High Speed Rail corridor**
- Approve Namma Metro **Phase 3 covering 44.5 km** with double-decker flyover
- Approve revised completion cost of **₹40,425 crore** for Namma Metro Phase 2
- Approve Namma Metro Phase 3A covering **37.8 km** from **Sarjapur to Hebbal**
- Approve implementation of Regional **Rapid Rail Transit System**
- Sanction and implement new **national highway projects**
- Expedite clearance for **Sharavati Pumped** Storage project
- Provide **₹25,000 crore** for development of Kalyana Karnataka
- Grant **₹5,000 crore** under Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment
- Grant **₹5,000 crore** under Urban Infrastructure Development Fund

Man in the spotlight: The upcoming Cabinet expansion will be the first major test of D.K. Shivakumar's authority as the Chief Minister. FILE PHOTO

From caste equations to factions: Challenges before next Cabinet expansion

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

As the Congress government headed by D.K. Shivakumar prepares for the second phase of the Cabinet expansion, the biggest challenge before the Chief Minister is balancing competing political interests within the party.

The first round of the Cabinet formation triggered open dissent, suggesting that the next expansion could prove to be even more complicated.

Over a dozen Congress MLAs are already camping in New Delhi, meeting the party's top leadership and lobbying for ministerial berths.

Many of them view the upcoming expansion as a do-or-die opportunity, given that the next Assembly election is less than two years away and another major reshuffle is unlikely before then.

After June 18

Former Ministers B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, Santosh Lad, and N. Cheluvarayaswamy have reportedly met the party high command seeking Cabinet berths. The expansion is expected by the end of June after the elections to seven seats of the Legislative Council (June 18).

Meanwhile, discontentment continues to simmer within the government over the allocation of portfolios. In addition, caste organisations, religious seers, and supporters have been demanding the inclusion of MLAs from their respective communities in the Cabinet through protests, press conferences, and banner campaigns. Seers of different castes too pitched in.

The first Cabinet, comprising 14 members including the Chief Minister, reflected a power-sharing arrangement, with several key portfolios going to loyalists of former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. Any perception that the next expansion disproportionately favours Mr. Shivakumar loyalists could revive factional tensions within the party.

The absence of women in the initial Cabinet has also drawn criticism from Congress leaders such as Margaret Alva. Mr. Shivakumar has indicated that women legislators could be accommodated in the next round, increasing pressure on the leadership to reserve one or two berths for them.

Loyalists' demand

Having served as KPCC president for six years, Mr. Shivakumar has built a strong network of loyal legislators, including MLA for Magadi H.C. Balakrishna, many of whom expect ministerial positions as recognition for their support. Legislators aligned with KPCC president B.K. Hariprasad are also expected to seek representation in the Cabinet, adding another layer of complexity to the exercise.

As every induction is likely to disappoint aspirants left out, the upcoming expansion filling 20 berths will be the first major test of Mr. Shivakumar's authority as the Chief Minister. If he succeeds in accommodating competing factions, regions, castes and political aspirants, it could strengthen his hold over the government, said a party functionary.

Berth pangs

- The first round of the Cabinet formation triggered open dissent
- **Over a dozen Congress MLAs are already camping in New Delhi, lobbying for ministerial berths**
- The expansion is expected by the end of June after the elections to seven seats of the Legislative Council
- **The absence of women in the initial Cabinet has also drawn criticism from Congress leaders**

Kharge, three others unanimously elected to RS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

All the four candidates, who had filed their nominations for the Rajya Sabha elections from Karnataka, including AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, have been declared unanimously elected.

Legislative Assembly Secretary M.K. Vishalakshi, who is also the Returning Officer for the Rajya Sabha polls, issued a statement on Thursday declaring them as elected unanimously.

The other three candidate are: Pawan Khera and Mansoor Ali Khan, who had contested on Congress ticket, and M. Nagaraja, a BJP nominee.

The polling for these seats was scheduled to be held on June 18, in which the members of the Legislative Assembly were supposed to exercise their franchise. However, the need for polling did not arise as there were only four candidates in the fray as against equal number of vacancies. June 11 was the deadline for withdrawal of nominations.

The biennial elections had been necessitated owing to the retirement of former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, Mr. Kharge, and BJP members Iranna Kadadi and Narayana Koragappa on June 25.

Council polls

However, the Council elections are set to witness a keen poll battle as eight candidates are fighting for seven seats. None of the candidates withdrew from the contest on Thursday when the deadline for withdrawing them ended.

While the Congress has fielded five candidates, including KPCC president B. K. Hariprasad, the BJP has fielded two and the JD(S) too has fielded a candidate.

Going by the numerical strength of these parties in the Assembly, it appears that there will be a tussle between the fifth candidate of the Congress and the lone candidate of the JD(S).

The candidates who are in the fray for the polls to the Legislative Council are: Mr. Hariprasad, P.V. Mohan, Thippannappa Kamaknoor, Vinay Karthik Prakash, Shivanna B. S. (Congress) Lingaraj Patil and Raghu Kautilya (BJP) and Govindaraju (JD-S).

The polling for these posts will be held on June 18.

Govt. withdraws recruitment of 480 graduate primary teachers

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Following a High Court order, the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) has withdrawn the recruitment of 480 Other Backward Classes (OBC) female graduate primary teachers (GPT) related to the recruitment of 2022-23.

The Commissioner of Public Instruction's order stated that the recruitment orders for which counselling has been conducted, as well as recruitment orders of candidates that have already reported for duty, have been withdrawn until further court orders.

In 2022-23, the State government had issued a notification for the recruitment of 15,000 GPT to teach in government schools from classes 6 to 8. It had recruited 13,352 teachers through a competitive examination.

During this recruitment, OBC candidates were asked to submit caste and income certificates along with their fathers' income certificates.

Many OBC female candidates were single while applying for the recruitment and had submitted their father's caste and income certificates. However, after the competitive examination was over and the shortlisting for recruitment was completed, many OBC female candidates were married by the time the documents were verified.

In 2022-23, the State government issued a notification for the recruitment of 15,000 graduate primary teachersto teach in government schools from classes 6 to 8. FILE PHOTO

The department, which raised an objection during the document verification, had made it mandatory for married OBC female candidates to submit their husbands' caste and income certificates, and put on hold the counselling of a total of 480 candidates. The department completed the recruitment of the remaining candidates.

However, the OBC female candidates had approached the court against the DSEL's move.

The Supreme Court, which delivered the final verdict on this case, ordered that the case be settled in the Karnataka State Administrative Tribunal (KSAT). The KSAT, which gave its verdict on April 30, ruled in favour of the 480 candidates whose recruitment counselling was stayed.

Pursuant to this verdict, the department had announced the final selection list of 480 candidates on May 16, 2026.

However, some candidates again approached the High Court against this final selection list, after which the department withdrew the appointments, in line with the court ordering that the status quo be maintained.

Department officials said that further action will be taken as per the court order.

40% surge in electric four-wheeler volumes signals gear shift beyond West Asia, finds Crisil Ratings

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Electric four-wheeler (E4W) adoption is gathering pace, with average monthly volumes rising by 40% to around 26,000 units during the three months ending May, 2026 – an all-time high compared with the 2026 financial year average, according to Crisil Ratings.

While recent fuel price increases, triggered by the West Asia conflict, have improved the cost-competitiveness of electric vehicles (EVs), the growth trajectory is supported by structural drivers such as longer driving ranges, improving cost economics vis-à-vis internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles and wider product choices. Consequently, annual E4W sales volumes are expected to more than double by next financial year, it said.

While the widening E4W portfolios would drive sizeable investments this financial year and next, healthy free cash flows from existing ICE portfolios, along with stronger balance sheets, would continue to support the credit profiles of original equipment manufacturers (OEMs).

Running cost

The running cost of ICE vehicles increased 7% to 8% this May due to a spike in fuel prices. This has improved the relative total cost of ownership (TCO) of E4Ws by a good 300 basis points. Given the lingering geo-political uncertainties and if fuel prices are hiked further, this advantage would be reinforced.

However, the strong demand momentum for E4Ws predates the fuel price surge. In the three months through May, E4W penetration rose to 6.1%, up from the 2026 financial year average of 4.6%, supported by already favourable TCO.

EV acquisition cost declined by 10 to 15% over the past two financial years, aided by product innovation and scale efficiencies. Furthermore, expanding product portfolios have increased consumer choice across segments, which is positive for sales.

There are structural drivers to the growth of E4Ws, such as the fact that the number of E4W models has doubled over the past two financial years. Several new launches are expected in the below ₹15 lakh segment by next financial year. Technological advancements are addressing a key barrier to adoption – range anxiety.

Premium models now offer 500 to 700 km per charge, while mid-range vehicles deliver 300–450 km. Extended battery warranties of eight to 10 years and innovative ownership structures such as battery-as-a-service are easing concerns about upfront costs and long-term reliability, Crisil Ratings said.

Challenges remain

Despite the progress, many challenges remain. While public charging infrastructure has scaled up substantially in recent years, it remains highly urban-centric and uneven across regions. The proposed tightening of corporate average fuel efficiency (CAFE) norms could push manufacturers to accelerate EV strategies.

AMARAVATI GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE CORPORATION LIMITED (AGICL)
2nd Floor, APCRDA Office, Rayapudi, Thulluru Mandal, Amaravati, A.P.
RFP. No. 01/MD/CP/AGICL/2026 Dt.11-06-2026
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S.No.	Name of the Work
1.	Request for Proposal for Appointment of Consultant for Preparation of Master Plan, Detailed Project Report, and Financial Plan for Amaravati Riverfront Project with Implementation Support for Pilot Project (Krishna Pushkaralu 2028)

The bids can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from **12-06-2026 3:00 PM**. For further details, please refer to **www.apeprocurement.gov.in** and **www.agicl.org**.
Sd/- Managing Director, AGICL, Amaravati.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

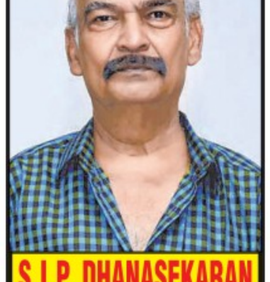
DEATH

It is with heavy heart that we announce the passing of our Beloved Father

Sri. R THIAGARAJAN
on 10th June 2026. His 92 years embodied a life of discipline dedicated to his family and god. He lived a rich life in work with the Indian Railways and later the Ministry of Finance. He is survived by his wife, sons, daughters in-law, daughter, son-in law, and grandchildren.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

11th ANNIVERSARY



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Vizag chief engineer among 3 Indians killed in attack on tanker

The Hindu Bureau
VISAKHAPATNAM

Patnala Suresh, a 44-year-old chief engineer from Visakhapatnam, was among three Indian seafarers who were killed after the Palau-flagged tanker *MT Settebello* came under attack off the coast of Oman on June 10. Twenty-one other Indian crew members were rescued. The death of the three crew members, who were initially reported missing, were confirmed on Thursday after their bodies were located and identified during search and rescue operations.

Speaking to a few media houses, Suresh's wife Bhargavi said the family was informed that three crew members, including her husband, were missing following the incident. Till Thursday afternoon, they only knew that he was untraceable. Company officials later informed the family that his body had been recovered and identified.

Ms. Bhargavi said she had spoken to her husband for the last time on the night of June 9. According to her, Suresh had been planning to sign off from the vessel after spending nearly four months on board. He had joined the ship at the end of January for what was initially expected to be a short assignment in China, but continued after the previous chief engineer signed off.

She said the vessel had been operating in waters around China and Singapore before being directed towards the Gulf region. The family had expected the ship to return to China after loading cargo.

Efforts on to contain Nipah outbreak: Kerala Minister

Contact list of persons who might have interacted with the patient drawn up; no containment zone needed as none other than the patient had shown symptoms, says K. Muraleedharan

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Health Department in Kerala is maintaining maximum vigilance and taking all possible preventive measures to ensure that the current Nipah outbreak in Kozhikode is contained and that no nosocomial or human-to-human transmission of the virus occurs.

The patient, a 43-year-old man from Ramanattukara, who was transferred from a private hospital to the Government Medical College Hospital (MCH), Kozhikode, on Wednesday with encephalitis symptoms, is stable and on ventilator support.

Health workers at the Nipah isolation ward at the Government Medical College Hospital in Kozhikode on Thursday. K. RAGESH

Health Minister K. Muraleedharan, who spoke to mediapersons in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday, after holding a high-level meeting with Health and medical college officials, said that a contact list of 77 persons who might have closely interacted with the patient had been drawn up. The list includes 58 healthcare workers, 14 family members of the patient, and five co-workers and friends.

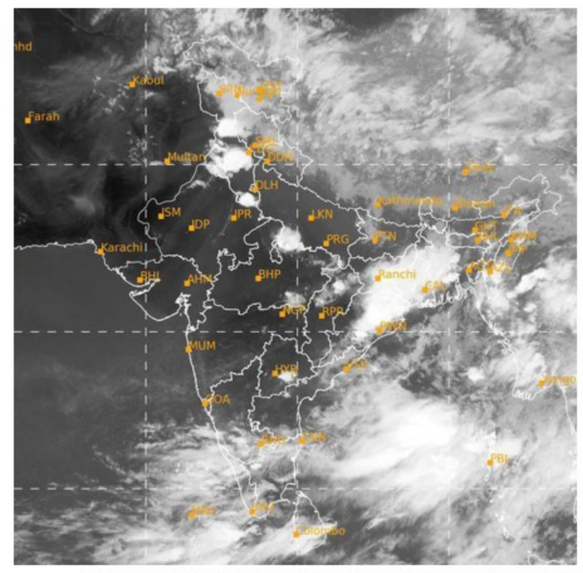
Of the 77 persons, two have been categorised as being at the "highest risk", 13 at "high risk", and 62 at low risk. He said that as of now, there was no need for earmarking a containment zone as none other than the patient had shown any symptoms.

The Health Department was preparing the patient's route map, and he appeared to have visited several healthcare establishments from May 10 before reaching the Kozhikode medical college, Mr. Muraleedharan said.

The Rapid Response Team in Kozhikode had met and adequate stocks of personal protection equipment and medicines were being made available. A control room has been opened at Kozhikode district medical administration's office.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.45 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	6	33.5	24.4	Kurnool	—	37.9	27.2
Ahmedabad	—	42.5	29.7	Lucknow	0.6	39.4	25.0
Aizawl	—	32.1	23.0	Madurai	—	38.0	26.7
Bengaluru	—	30.0	21.5	Mangaluru	40	29.8	23.0
Bhopal	—	39.7	28.0	Mumbai	—	35.3	30.0
Bhubaneswar	—	39.2	29.2	Mysuru	—	31.4	21.2
Chandigarh	1	42.7	24.2	New Delhi	—	38.7	30.0
Chennai	—	35.6	31.6	Patna	13	29.6	22.7
Coimbatore	—	33.0	22.8	Port Blair	82	29.3	23.2
Dehradun	5	33.1	22.2	Prayagraj	—	39.2	26.6
Gangtok	23	22.3	16.3	Puducherry	—	36.8	29.2
Goa	16	33.8	25.2	Pune	—	36.2	26.9
Guwahati	—	32.5	26.4	Raipur	1	40.8	26.4
Hubballi	—	31.0	23.0	Ranchi	—	35.5	21.5
Hyderabad	—	38.4	27.3	Shillong	4	25.0	16.5
Imphal	0.8	32.0	24.0	Shimla	—	32.0	21.6
Jaipur	—	40.4	31.6	Srinagar	—	31.5	18.5
Kochi	15	29.2	25.2	Thiruvananthapuram	8	31.4	25.5
Kohima	—	24.0	18.0	Tiruchirappalli	—	38.5	27.8
Kolkata	34	35.5	23.7	Vijayawada	47	36.8	23.5
Kozhikode	13	33.4	25.0	Visakhapatnam	—	35.3	28.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.71	..41	.58	69	87	.....
Bengaluru	...6	4	.38	65	94	.....
Chennai	...6	..13	.30	45	67	.....
Delhi	.10	..61	...6	...147	...242	.....
Hyderabad	.14	..15	.62	54	78	.....
Kolkata	.13	..23	.15	52	83	.....
Lucknow	...6	..47	.21	...123	...112	.....
Mumbai	...3	..96	.23	37	88	.....
Pune	..—	..46	101	31	54	.....
Visakhapatnam	..—	..—	.12	.....—	.....—	.....—

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sirsa, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 386 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Gadag, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 23

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

No 'straightjacket formula' for interest on compemnsation, says HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

There is no "straightjacket formula" in determining the rate of interest on compensation amount awarded in motor vehicle accident cases, said the High Court of Karnataka while rejecting an insurance company's plea for reducing the rate of interest to 8% from the 9% awarded by a motor accident claims tribunal in a case of death caused due to road accident. "There cannot be any straitjacket formula in determining the rate of interest and that the same must depend on the facts and circumstances of each case. The guiding principle remains that the rate must neither be punitive nor non-existent but must strike a balance between fairness to the claimant and reasonableness to the insurer," the court observed.

Justice Tara Vitasta Ganju passed the order while dismissing an appeal filed by United India Insurance Co. Limited., questioning only the rate of interest awarded by the tribunal in 2018 on the compensation amount while disposing of a claim petition filed by a man, along with two children, for the death of his wife, a coolie, who had died when a van hit her while she was crossing a road in Bengaluru in November 2016.

The insurance company had contended that tribunal should have imposed prevailing bank rate of interest or a maximum of 8% on the compensation amount of ₹16.57 lakh.

The Court said that Motor Vehicles Act does not prescribe a fixed interest rate but leaves it to the Tribunal's discretion, requiring simple interest from the claim date, and the courts, from time to time have evolved interest rate to compensate for delayed payment of compensation.

On analysing the rate of interest awarded in various accident cases that were affirmed by the apex court during past 5-10, Justice Ganju pointed out that the tribunals and the courts have been consistently been awarding interest at 9% on the compensation amount.

"While bank rates may serve as a guiding factor, they are not determinative, and the discretion of the Court remains paramount. In addition, the Supreme Court has awarded/upheld the award of 9% per annum even in serious injury/death cases," the High Court observed.

The rate of interest 9% is more appropriate in case involving death and serious injury especially, where there is a long delay in the claimants receiving compensation, the High Court said while pointing out that award of interest is usually determined on a case-to-case basis and at the rate which is just and fair and reasonable.

Vijay to visit Kollur today

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

In his first visit to Karnataka after taking charge, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay will visit Kollur Mookambika Temple in Udupi district on Friday afternoon.

Mr. Vijay will land at the Mangaluru International Airport around noon and will travel by road to the temple.

The Udupi district police have made elaborate security arrangements for the visit of the Tamil Nadu Cheif Minister.

Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Niyamitha
(Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Kabini Reservoir Division, Kabini Colony, H.D Kote Taluk, Mysore District-571116
Ph/Fax: 08228-268378 Email: xekrdhdk@yahoo.com
Tender Notification No:04/2026-27 Dated: 08-06-2026
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)
Item rates tenders are invited on KPPP basis on behalf of the Managing Director, CNNL, Bangalore from eligible registered contractors for a total 02 numbers of works with a minimum value of Rs.154.52 Lakh and maximum value of Rs.2081.73 Lakhs. The contractors can have access/ download KPPP tender document from **08-06-2026** onwards and last date to submitt the filled tender document is **09-07-2026** till 5.00 PM. Technical bid will be opened on **10-07-2026** at 5.00 PM onwards and Financial bid will be opened after the approval of Technical Bid. All the information is available on KPPP web-site address **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/kppp.** Additional information can be obtained from the undersigned during office hours.
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Kabini Reservoir Division, Kabini Colony.
DIPR/DDMYS/292/KSMCA/204/2026-27

ODISHA INDIA'S BEST KEPT SECRET.
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
Paryatan Bhawan, Lewis Road, Bhubaneswar-751014
Phone: (0674) 243 2177
Website : www.odishatourism.gov.in
www.dot.odisha.gov.in
No. 8947 / TSM, Bhubaneswar, dt. 10.06.2026
TCT-TSP-FEST-0003-2023
INDICATIVE ADVERTISEMENT
APPLICATION FOR 37TH KONARK FESTIVAL
(1st to 5th December 2026)
Open Air Auditorium, Konark, Odisha, India
Tourism Department, Government of Odisha invites online applications separately from eligible Troupe/ Institute/ Organisation to perform in the Indian Classical Dance forms i.e. Odissi, Kathak, Bharatnatyam, Mohiniyattam, Kuchipudi and Sattriya for the **37th Konark Festival** scheduled to be held from **1st to 5th December 2026.**
For detailed information, interested Troupe/ Institute/ Organisation are requested to visit online application portal **www.odishatourism.gov.in** which shall remain open from the **12th June 2026 to 15th July 2026.**
(Biswajit Routray)
Additional Director
37001/21/2627 OIPR-37001/37001/1/26-27/0005

TRANSMSSION CORPORATION OF TELANGANA LIMITED
e-TENDER NOTICE
The TGTransco invites online Bids under e-procurement for Supply of the following equipment. **Specification No.** TGPMM31-18/2026. **Description:** Supply, Erection & Commissioning of 48F/96F OPGW cable and its associated hardware accessories.
Tenderers can have further details and download the tender schedule from e-procurement market place i.e., **www.tender.telangana.gov.in.**
Contact Nos.: Chief Engineer/P&MM, TGTransco Phone: 040-23396000 (Extn.: 3537,/3323/3583/3487) www.tgtransco.com
DIPR R.O.No.217-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/2026-27 Dt:11-06-2026 **Sd/-Chief Engineer/P&MM**

Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation
MANGALORE DIVISION: MANGALORE
No.KST/MNG/TR/COM/732/2026-27 Dt:10.06.2026
E-TENDER NOTIFICATION NO-02/2026-27
(Through e-Procurement only)
Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation, Mangaluru Division, invited e-Tender Applications for Display of packagewise Advertisement Hoardings, Glow sign Boards, Platform Boards, LED TV Screen at bus stands, Depot, Divisional workshop that are coming under KSRTC Mangaluru Division, through e-procurement for selection of licencee. E-Tender documents can be downloaded from e-procurement website **https:/kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or before dt:**30-06-2026 at 16.00Hrs**. Opening of E-Tender Technical/ Financial Bid on dt:**03.07.2026 at 12:00 hrs**.
For more details visit Divisional Office, K.S.R.T.C Mangaluru Division- 575004 during office hours. : Contact Details: Divisional Traffic Officer-7760990702, Assistant Traffic Manager - 7760990711
Sd/-
Senior Divisional Controller
KSRTC:Mangaluru Division
DIPR/CP/1120/Zen/2026-27

TAMILNADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
No.417, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008. Phone:28191890/28190259. Fax: 044 -28190636

Sl. No	Online Tender no with qty./ Document Cost	Sale Period	Pre bid	Submission	Opening
1	E1545/TMS/NHM/TNMSC/ENGG/2026, dt:11.06.2026 – Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (1) – Rs.3,435/-	12.06.2026 to 29.06.2026	18.06.2026 11.00 AM	30.06.2026 11.00 AM	30.06.2026 12.00 Noon
2	E1546/SCOPE/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2026, dt:11.06.2026 – Arthroscopy Complete Set (5), ACL & PCL Instrument Set (5), RF Shoulder Arthroscope Set (5) & Instrument for Hip Surgery (5) – Rs.5,725/-	12.06.2026 to 29.06.2026	18.06.2026 11.30 AM	30.06.2026 11.00 AM	30.06.2026 12.00 Noon
3	E1547/ISO/CONATINER/TNMSC/ENGG/2026, dt:11.06.2026 – 40' ISO Cryogenic Tank Containers for LMO to lease or dispose (12) – Rs.5,725/-	12.06.2026 to 29.06.2026	18.06.2026 12.00 Noon	30.06.2026 11.00 AM	30.06.2026 12.00 Noon
4	E1548/EYE/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2026, dt:11.06.2026 – Auto Refractometer with Keratometer (13) – Rs.3,435/-	15.06.2026 to 30.06.2026	22.06.2026 11.00 AM	01.07.2026 11.00 AM	01.07.2026 12.00 Noon
5	E1549/L-COT/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2026, dt:11.06.2026 – Labour Cot with Mattress (175) – Rs.5,725/-	15.06.2026 to 30.06.2026	22.06.2026 11.30 AM	01.07.2026 11.00 AM	01.07.2026 12.00 Noon
6	E1550/LAUNDRY/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2026, dt:11.06.2026 – Various Laundry Items – Rs.5,725/-	15.06.2026 to 30.06.2026	22.06.2026 12.00 noon	01.07.2026 11.00 AM	01.07.2026 12.00 Noon
7	E1551/BAL/DME-KIPM/TNMSC/ENGG/2026, dt:11.06.2026 – Analytical Balance (1) – Rs.3,435/-	15.06.2026 to 30.06.2026	22.06.2026 12.30 PM	01.07.2026 11.00 AM	01.07.2026 12.00 Noon

For details visit **www.tntenders.gov.in** and TNMSC website **www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in**
DIPR/ 2045 /TENDER/2026 **GENERAL MANGER (EQUIPMENT)**

RAVENSHAW UNIVERSITY
CUTTACK - 753003, ODISHA (NAAC-A++)
FACULTY RECRUITMENT : EXTENSION OF LAST DATE
In continuation to this Office Advertisement **No.-1762 Dated 12.05.2026 (For the Post of Professor)**, **No.1765 Dated 12.05.2026 (For the Post of Associate Professor)** and **No.1768 Dated 12.05.2026 (For the Post of Assistant Professor)**, the **closing date and time** for online submission of application form in HIMS portal is hereby extended from **11.06.2026 (11.59 PM) to 20.06.2026 (11.59 PM)**. Accordingly, the closing date of receiving the hard copy of the application along with the required documents through Speed / Registered Post is extended from **20.06.2026 (05.00 PM) to 29.06.2026 (05.00 PM).**
All other terms and conditions mentioned in the above Advertisements remain unchanged.
No.2482 / Date. 11.06.2026 **REGISTRAR**
11001/124/2627 OIPR-11001/11008/1/26-27/0011

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYATH, BELLARY
Office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Bellary.
No. EE/PRED/BLY/AE-1/Various Heads/2026-27/ **Dt. 09-06-2026.**
Short Tender Notification
(Through KPPP Portal only)
On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka tenders are invited from the eligible contractors who have enrolled in Panchayath Raj Engineering Department for 07 works comprising of approved Building works under 2025-26 KKRDB Works and 2025-26 CMIDP Works through KPPP portal.
Indent No.
1.RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT27227
2.RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT27232
3.RDPR/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT27220
4.RDPR/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT27238
5.RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT27223
6.RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT26981
7.RDPR/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT26014/CALL-2
Contractors are required to submit the tender before 16-06-2026 at 5.15 PM by uploading the relevant documents through KPPP portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in by downloading the formats for submission of tenders from 09-06-2026 to 16-06-2026 at 5.15 PM. Tenders will be opened through KPPP portal on 17-06-2026 at 5.30 PM Any changes in the notification will be published KPPP website only. Accepting/rejection of tenders without assigning reason is reserved. Any details can be obtained in person at the office or through telephone No. 08392-266173.
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/226

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/25-2026-27
Tenders are invited through e-Tendering in SRM Two Bid system from the registered vendors for Supply of following:

Tender No. & Description of Material	Estimated Amount (in Rs. Lakhs) / Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) for Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/T-14/0626_TKC1 RFx 7000040259 (1st Call) for Work of replacement of existing 0.4 ACSR Zebra conductor by equivalent HPC (High Performance Conductor) along with suitable hardware. accessories and insulators for 1. 220kV Murud -Girwali Line. 2) 220kV ICL - Parli PG and 3) 220kV Parli - PGCIL ckt-II along with replacement of EHV equipments at associated substations under EHV PC O&M Zones, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar.	Rs.6312.79 Lakhs (Incl. GST) Rs. 5349.82 Lakhs (Excl. GST) 25,000.00+GST	10.07.2026 18:00 Hrs 10.07.2026 18.05 Hrs

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (TKC1)
CPA, C.O. MSETCL, 1st Floor, Prakashgad Building, Bandra (E), Mumbai, Tel. No.: 022-69852717
Email id: cecpa@mahatransco.in, secpa@mahatransco.in, eetkc1cpa@mahatransco.in, eepc@mahatransco.in
For further details visit our website **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in/**
Any further amendments/clarifications will be published on the MSETCL website **www.mahatransco.in**. & **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in/**. Bidders are therefore requested to check these websites for further updates
Sd/-
Executive Engineer (P&C)

Government of Karnataka
DEPARTMENT OF MINES & GEOLOGY
Office of the Director, No. 49, Khanija Bhavan, South Block, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560 001 Phone No:22384134/35
No. DMG-17012/26/2025/2026-27 **Dated: 06.06.2026**
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
The Department of Mines and Geology is calling tender for auction of seized generated iron ore fines under respective notification through MSTC.
Eligibility conditions, terms and conditions, date and time for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. Separate Lot wise auction notifications are published in MSTC portal. Tender Documents, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process of respective lots shall be available in electronic form only at the website of MSTC Ltd. **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/aucsearch/search.jsp**
The auction of old stock for each lot is "AS IS WHERE IS AND NO COMPLAINT BASIS". The interested bidders shall ascertain the quantity and quality of the Iron /Manganese ore before participation. The Department is not responsible for any dispute arising after confirmation of the bid. Interested bidders may visit the MSTC Ltd website.
Sd/-
Director,
Department of Mines & Geology
DIPR/CP/1106/NR/2026-27

Lows of the land

The rejection of the papers of Congress Rajya Sabha candidate is fraudulent

The rejection of Congress leader Meenakshi Natarajan's nomination for the Rajya Sabha election from Madhya Pradesh raises questions of institutional integrity and procedural fairness, going beyond the fate of a single candidate. The Supreme Court has agreed to hear the matter on Friday. Meanwhile, all three BJP candidates have been declared elected unopposed, raising further questions on the neutrality and fairness of the process. Ms. Natarajan's nomination was rejected by the Returning Officer (RO) following objections that she had failed to disclose a pending criminal case in Hyderabad in her election affidavit. As the All-India Congress Committee (AICC) in-charge of Telangana, she was named as one of the respondents in a private complaint filed by a former Telugu Desam Party corporator before the court of the Additional Metropolitan Magistrate, Hyderabad, in 2025. The complaint was not even against Ms. Natarajan; it was against another Congress leader for alleged inappropriate behaviour and criminal intimidation, and she was mentioned in the petition for allegedly not taking appropriate action against the leader. There is no criminal FIR by the Telangana police against Ms. Natarajan. Unlike a conventional police case, a private complaint originates directly before a court. The court had issued notices to the persons named in the complaint, including Ms. Natarajan.

The RO's decision to use this as grounds for the rejection of the nomination reeks of extreme arbitrariness, and even a conspiracy. The law regarding the disclosure of cases is unambiguous. Section 33A of the Representation of the People Act requires disclosure only of those cases that carry a punishment of two years or more and, above all, only of those cases in which charges have been framed. Framing of charges is a judicial step, which follows the filing of a charge sheet. The RO's position that material facts had been concealed and the nomination papers were incomplete is not merely a misinterpretation of the law, but an insult to common sense. Going by that logic, a candidate could be disqualified for failing to list notices of traffic violations too. The disclosure regime has been designed to ensure transparency regarding candidates' criminal antecedents and pending cases. What makes Ms. Natarajan's case starkly arbitrary is that in the same election cycle, another candidate was asked by the RO to amend the affidavits to meet mandatory requirements. The Election Commission of India has the sacred constitutional duty of ensuring free and fair elections. It is failing in that duty, damaging democracy in the process. The capture of a Rajya Sabha seat by the ruling BJP in complete disregard for the law is a severe setback for election integrity.

Fair and square

T.N. Assembly Speaker is going by the letter and spirit of Tenth Schedule

Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar has followed democratic principles by deciding not to pursue disqualification proceedings against 21 AIADMK MLAs after the party's general secretary, Edappadi K. Palaniswami, condoned the actions of the rebel legislators. Contrary to their party's whip, the MLAs had supported the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)-led government during the trust vote on May 13. Mr. Prabhakar also stood by his assurance, made on May 24, that his eventual decision would demonstrate his impartiality. Actually, 25 MLAs of the Dravidian major had violated the party's directive and favoured the new regime but four of them including two women legislators subsequently resigned their seats. This is why the Speaker's action pertained only to 21 MLAs, after receiving letters from Mr. Palaniswami stating that he had condoned the dissidents' violation of the party whip. As the official group and the rebels reached a truce on May 27, the AIADMK chief decided to condone the dissidents' actions within 15 days from the date of such voting, as prescribed under the Tenth Schedule and the Tamil Nadu Assembly's disqualification rules.

Notwithstanding Mr. Prabhakar's track record as a non-controversial politician, many wondered whether he would act fairly, given that Mr. Palaniswami and his colleagues are political adversaries of TVK. Besides, Tamil Nadu has not been free from the unfortunate tendency of Assembly Speakers acting in a partisan manner. P.H. Pandian, who served as Speaker from 1985 to 1989, had even said that the presiding officer of the Assembly possessed "sky-high powers". The discretionary powers enshrined in the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, which deals with defection, have been used by Speakers in various States for the wrong reasons. By dropping the proceedings against the 21 dissidents, Mr. Prabhakar has upheld constitutional morality. However, he should have initiated disqualification proceedings against the four others before accepting their resignation. The Assembly Secretariat also duly notified that vacancies had arisen in the four constituencies, following which the election authorities advised the District Election Officers to appoint Returning Officers. Mr. Prabhakar rightly went by Mr. Palaniswami's submission wherein only the names of 21 MLAs were mentioned, and decided to pursue the matter against the other four. But, this will be of a purely technical nature as the bar is only on disqualified members becoming Ministers before getting elected again. Even as Mr. Prabhakar's next course of action is awaited, it is a healthy sign that he has so far demonstrated fairness in dealing with the petitions seeking disqualification.

FCRA Bill — expanding state control over civil society

P. Wilson

Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) and a Senior Advocate practising in the Supreme Court of India

The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, raises concerns that asset confiscation powers could disrupt welfare services relied upon by thousands in India

The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment (FCRA) Bill, 2026, introduced in the Lok Sabha on March 25, 2026, is far more than a routine regulatory measure. While presented as a step towards greater transparency and national security, it significantly increases executive power, transforming the FCRA from a law regulating foreign funding into one that enables extensive state control over non-governmental organisations (NGOs), charitable trusts, and educational and religious institutions.

From oversight to overreach

The current FCRA regime was already among the most stringent regulations governing civil society in any democracy. The 2020 amendments imposed strict restrictions: requiring all foreign contributions to pass through a single bank branch (State Bank of India) in New Delhi, reducing administrative expenditure limits from 50% to 20%, banning sub-granting to smaller organisations, and expanding suspension powers. These measures alone devastated thousands of NGOs, particularly smaller faith-based and charitable bodies serving marginalised groups.

The 2026 Bill goes much further. By introducing a new Chapter IIIA (and removing the previous Section 15) and replacing existing asset-management provisions, it creates a framework for the government to seamlessly vest organisational assets and properties without compensation or management. Its most troubling provision is the proposed Section 14B, which introduces automatic "cessation" of FCRA registration. An organisation could lose its registration not only if renewal is denied but also if it fails to apply on time or if renewal remains pending. This effectively allows institutions to be paralysed through procedural delays rather than proven misconduct, weakening due process and increasing executive discretion.

The gravest concern is Section 16A under the new Chapter IIIA. It states that when an FCRA registration is cancelled, surrendered, or deemed to have ceased, all foreign contributions and assets derived from them automatically "provisionally vest" in a government-designated authority, without prior judicial review or independent adjudication. This means that a simple administrative decision can strip organisations of control over their funds and property. As cancellation under Section 14 can be based on broad and subjective grounds such as "public interest," organisations risk losing control of their assets even for minor, procedural, or disputed violations. Because cancellation under Section 14 triggers the application of Section 16A, organisations risk losing assets even for procedural, minor, or disputed breaches. The designated authority would then be empowered to manage, transfer, or dispose of these assets, with sale proceeds credited to the Consolidated Fund of India. The provision is particularly sweeping because it may cover assets funded both domestically and from abroad—potentially bringing schools, hospitals, orphanages, religious institutions, charitable organisations, and places of worship such as churches, mosques, and temples built over decades under government control. The powers granted to the Designated Authority are extraordinary. It can take control of assets, manage institutions, oversee finances, and alter operations in the vaguely defined "public interest," giving the executive wide discretion. If an organisation fails to secure restoration or re-registration within the prescribed period, the vesting becomes permanent. The Authority may then transfer or sell the assets, with the proceeds credited to the Consolidated Fund of India – effectively enabling executive confiscation through legal process.

This endangers not only the survival of organisations but also the essential services and infrastructure upon which communities depend. FCRA assets include land, buildings, vehicles, equipment, and unspent funds, raising the real possibility that institutions could be effectively shut down. Foreign donors primarily support Indian charitable organisations to aid vulnerable communities, promote education, improve public health, and advance other public-interest goals. These contributions help organisations deliver tangible societal benefits.

Seizing such funds into the Consolidated Fund based on weak or disputed allegations defeats the very purpose of these donations. The new provisions thus expose Indian organisations to the constant risk of state expropriation, endangering both donated funds and the assets they support. This framework establishes sweeping procedures for "provisional vesting" and "permanent vesting" of assets in a government-appointed "Designated Authority".

The amendments also deepen executive control during suspension and investigation. The amended Section 13 bars organisations from managing their assets without prior approval during suspension, effectively paralysing their operations. The revised Section 43 centralises enforcement by requiring Union government approval before any state agency can investigate FCRA violations. Combined with broader definitions of "key functionaries" and increased personal liability for office-bearers, the Bill risks creating a climate of fear that discourages civil society participation.

Limited accountability

The 2026 Bill proposes abolishing Section 22, which currently deals with the disposal of assets of defunct or non-operational organisations. The law also lacks clear timelines for approving or rejecting FCRA licences, permissions, registrations, and renewals, leading to uncertainty and delays that can hinder projects dependent on foreign funding and disproportionately impact vulnerable communities. Often, reasons for cancellation are not publicly disclosed due to national security concerns, making it difficult for organisations to challenge such decisions. Cancellations or suspensions might occur due to procedural lapses, risking the shutdown of organisations serving communities.

The impact on minority communities, especially Christians, is particularly worrying. Christian organisations run thousands of schools, colleges, hospitals, orphanages, tribal welfare bodies, and charitable trusts—many supported by ongoing funding from churches, diaspora groups, and humanitarian agencies. There are many such institutions in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Nagaland, Mizoram, and Meghalaya. It is a fact that minorities operate charitable organisations that mainly benefit the majority. Under Section 16A, these could face government takeover if their registration lapses, renewal is delayed, or cancellation procedures are initiated. Institutions such as long-established convent schools, colleges, mission hospitals, and orphanages face the risk of coming under government control simply due to procedural non-compliance. But the fact remains that the government is systematically targeting organisations one after another, and between 2014 and 2026, about 22,000 FCRA licences have been cancelled for no valid or credible reasons. It could be stated with concern that the government appears to be eyeing the properties of minorities, which in reality benefits the majority.

Cancellations of FCRA licences threaten ongoing efforts in child protection, immunisation, neonatal health, nutrition, early childhood education, parental involvement, youth skills development, and access to government schemes in affected regions. The sector contributes significantly to the economy—around 2% of GDP—with roughly four lakh to eight lakh individuals per organisation losing access to vital services due to revoked licences. According to the 2014 Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation report, civil society organisations generate 27 lakh jobs and 34 lakh full-time volunteers, surpassing public sector employment. A separate survey of 515 NGOs found that 47% are the main source of employment in more than half the localities where they operate. These amendments threaten not only the existence of organisations but also the infrastructure and community resources relied upon by millions.

Constitutional rights under threat

Critics view the Bill as a serious threat to civil society and minority institutions. Its vague "public interest" standard could be used against organisations working on minority rights, tribal welfare, environmental protection, human rights, or public advocacy. The result may be a chilling effect, discouraging donors, trustees, and volunteers from supporting such organisations.

The Bill also raises constitutional concerns under Articles 14, 19(1)(c), 25, 26, 29, 30, and 300A. By concentrating broad powers in the executive, it risks undermining freedom of association, the autonomy of religious and educational institutions, and property rights.

Any regulation of foreign contributions must be accompanied by due process, independent oversight, and safeguards against arbitrary state action. Without such protections, the Bill risks becoming one of the most oppressive laws affecting civil society in modern India.

Implementation complete, but workers still vulnerable

Kingshuk Sarkar

Professor of Economics and Public Policy at the Goa Institute of Management

Labour Code Rules leave workers' concerns unaddressed

With the notification of the rules for the four labour codes in May, the implementation framework for these codes is now complete. Trade unions and academics have raised serious objections to several provisions in the new labour codes, arguing that they are regressive and detrimental to the interests of workers. It has also taken nearly six years to operationalise the codes enacted during 2019-20. The codes are The Code on Wages, 2019, The Industrial Relations Code, 2020, The Code on Social Security, 2020 and The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020.

Critical gaps

Rules essentially lay down the standard operating procedures (SoPs) for implementing an Act or Code. While they cannot contradict the provisions of the parent legislation, they become crucial where the law is broad or open-ended. Given the sustained opposition to several provisions in the four labour codes, it was expected that the rules would help moderate some of the contentious aspects. However, those expectations appear to have been belied.

The Industrial Relations Code, 2020 formally introduced the concept of Fixed-Term Employment (FTE) into India's labour law framework, although such employment arrangements have been widely used for decades. However, the Code does not specify a minimum tenure or limit the number of contract renewals.

The rules could have addressed these gaps to mitigate potential adverse effects on workers. A minimum tenure (one year) could have prevented very short tenures which are detrimental to employees. Also, there could have been some restrictions in the number of times renewals can be allowed. Otherwise, there is a possibility that even regular positions become FTEs with unlimited renewals. Unfortunately, the rules remain silent on these important issues.

The Code on Wages (Central) Rules provide only a vague definition of the "floor wage" and do not clearly distinguish it from the minimum wage. While the Rules require consultation with State governments, they do not specify a detailed framework for such consultations, raising concerns that the process may remain largely symbolic. The Rules also fail to lay down clear principles for fixing minimum wages. As a result, the convention of treating a four-member family as comprising three consumption units is likely to continue. This effectively perpetuates gender bias, as an adult female is assigned a weight of 0.8 compared with 1.0 for an adult male.

The Rules further provide that the hourly wage shall be calculated by dividing the daily wage by eight. Conceptually, this is a flawed approach. An hourly wage should not merely be a pro-rata derivation of the daily wage, as workers may not be able to find work for the remaining hours of the day. Internationally, minimum hourly wages are often determined independently of daily wage rates. This issue is particularly important in India, given the large number of domestic workers and the likely expansion of gig and platform-based work in future.

Gig workers remain vulnerable

The Social Security Code (Central) Rules make no attempt to clarify the employment relationship in the gig economy. Gig and platform workers continue to be treated as self-employed and remain part of the unorganised workforce. The Rules are also silent on the mandatory gratuity insurance envisaged under the Code. Such insurance could protect workers against non-payment of gratuity by employers. However, the Rules fail to specify the modalities for implementing this safeguard, leaving an important worker protection mechanism undefined. The Industrial Relations Code (Central) Rules provide that a sole registered trade union must have at least 30% membership to be recognised. This means that registration alone does not guarantee recognition. In large establishments, smaller or newly formed unions may find it difficult to meet this threshold, further weakening their ability to represent workers at a time when the bargaining power of trade unions has already been declining for decades. Notably, the 30% threshold does not appear in the Code itself. The Rules also fail to provide further clarity on the engagement and renewal of fixed-term employees, leaving significant scope for ambiguity and potential misuse.

Missing safeguards for workers

The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code (Central) Rules set out safety and welfare provisions for the various occupations covered under the Code. However, certain occupation-specific welfare measures, such as housing and medical facilities for plantation workers, are absent. The Rules also do not specify the activities for which contract labour may be engaged, nor do they clearly distinguish between core and non-core activities.

This omission is significant, given the growing informalisation of the labour market through the use of contract labour in core operations. The lack of clarity on what constitutes a core activity leaves considerable scope for ambiguity and misuse.

Broadly speaking, certain open-ended provisions contested by the trade unions and academics, could have been moderated to a certain extent while framing the Rules. But, as it is evident now, that did not happen. It is yet another missed opportunity and a further cause for concern for the country's working class.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FIFA 2026

As the world gathers once again under the banner of the FIFA World Cup, it is worth remembering that football's greatest gift is not entertainment alone, but its stubborn faith in possibility. In an age fractured by wars, inequalities and anxieties, the tournament remains a rare arena where hope still dares to outrun pedigree.

R. Narayanan,
Navi Mumbai

Bharathiraja

The passing of Bharathiraja, at 84, marks the fall of the curtain on a towering chapter in Tamil cinema. His films drew viewers into the emotional fabric of agrarian communities, capturing their aspirations, relationships and conflicts with uncommon authenticity. His camera roamed through fields, dusty pathways and hamlets, while his narratives explored the human bonds that held rural society together. Bharathiraja also challenged entrenched social evils, thereby sparking conversations beyond the screen. He broke away from studio-bound film-making, embraced real locations and ushered in a refreshing realism that transformed Tamil cinema.

By turning local stories into universal experiences, Bharathiraja has created an enduring legacy.

Raju Kolluru,
Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Should India incentivise bigger families?

PARLEY

Aparajita Chattopadhyay

Professor at the International Institute for Population Sciences

Neelanjan Sircar

Political scientist teaching at Ahmedabad University

For decades, Indian policymakers have encouraged population control, with the familiar slogan of '*Hum Do, Humare Do*' (We two, our two). However, the recent drop in India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) – the average number of children a woman would have in her lifetime – has now dropped to 1.9, below the replacement rate of 2.1, with some southern States seeing their TFR drop to 1.3. Last month, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu announced cash incentives of ₹30,000 and ₹40,000 to women having their third and fourth child respectively, in a bid to reverse that trend. Several other southern States have indicated that they also see the benefits of boosting population growth, though not through a cash payout. Should India incentivise bigger families? Aparajita Chattopadhyay and Neelanjan Sircar discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Priscilla Jebaraj**.

Why are policymakers considering a change in the approach to population control?

Aparajita Chattopadhyay: After a long struggle with family planning since independence, our fertility has started declining. There are State-level variations, but overall fertility now is 1.9. It is fine, and India can grow in this way for maybe 40 to 50 years. But reversal of fertility trends cannot be a policy driven thing. It is deeply rooted socio-culturally and is an individualistic choice. You cannot tell a group of women to increase fertility because I am giving you money. It has never happened in that way, even in European or other Asian countries.

The political implications are the immediate trigger for this policy. Is the threat of future parliamentary delimitation a reason to reverse fertility decline?

Neelanjan Sircar: There has been a lot of discussion about the growth rate of southern States as delimitation is on the horizon. But we need to look beyond pure politics because any growth spurred by these incentives is unlikely to help in the short-term. The reality is, if there's a delimitation exercise happening in the next couple of years, you're not going to dramatically change the fertility rate by then.

Another reason this is being considered is because of the political economy of States with a working population that may be shrinking. But this is a ham-handed approach. Social and demographic transformations are complex phenomena, and go hand in hand with a certain level of economic development. Historically, with a certain level of social and economic development, the fertility rate drops.

Now, there's a cash incentive at play to encourage people to have more children. For a wealthy family, this incentive is simply not enough to invest in another child. But for a poor family, perhaps it is. Here, you are not just increasing the fertility rate in a State, you are also changing other social attributes in the population, in terms of who is going to be able to respond to such an incentive and who will not. It's not as simple as saying we've created a working age population because you've fundamentally changed the composition of the working age population once you've introduced an economic incentive.

Children playing on the swings near the outskirts of the Amaravati capital region, amid the summer heat, in Andhra Pradesh on May 8. G.N. RAO

What has been the international experience of attempting to boost population growth?

AC: Incentivisation can help relatively lower income groups, and this has happened in many European countries. For example, in Poland, there was a short-term boost in birth rate only among the lower income demographics. In Sweden and France, tax incentives changed things for a short span, but it was very difficult to sustain that reversal, and the same thing happened with Singapore, Japan, South Korea.

Nowadays, the entire world is going through a polycrisis shock. There is a lot of instability in geopolitics, the economy, and the climate. Moreover, there are both altruistic and individualistic attitudes to fertility. The younger generation is quite aspirational. They need their prosperity – a good job and savings. So, you cannot ask them to go and have more children.

Until women confirm that there is security in every possible sense, they will not reverse the fertility rate because there are plenty of tangible and intangible costs for a woman or for the society to have an additional child. So at this juncture, I believe that incentivisation may not work. In India, especially, it is not required because we have a huge population base, so there may not actually be a scarcity of working age labourers if you improve their skills, give them better job opportunities, improve the savings and investment scenario, and promote the silver ageing economy.

> Social and demographic transformations are complex phenomena, and go hand in hand with economic development. Historically, with a certain level of social and economic development, the fertility rate drops
>
> **NEELANJAN SIRCAR**

Falling fertility rates are an uneven phenomenon. What does this portend for Indian federalism?

NS: Obviously there are some immediate questions about converting populations into political representation through delimitation. But another variable would be that as we see differences in fertility rates, we're also going to see very different demographic profiles of States. And we know that the youth, the middle-aged, and the elderly all vote differently. They're in different stages of life, so they have different economic preferences in terms of what a government should be investing in, for instance, pensions versus manufacturing jobs versus childcare. So we're going to see very different political economy choices.

AC: With regard to Andhra Pradesh, if you look at the recent NFHS statistics, there are a number of areas, instead of cash incentives, where they can spend money in order to get lower middle class people to reproduce more. Almost one in four women aged 20 to 24 got married before turning 18. Only 30% of households have women who own any assets, and only 48% of women work. If Andhra Pradesh thinks that they're demographically advanced and can behave like Europe to reverse fertility trends, then the women in the workforce should be at 80%.

In European countries, the motherhood penalty is almost negligible. There is enough parental leave, and workforce participation is very high. So only when your economy and social security is perfect can you think of having a reversal of fertility trends.

What are some key findings of the Longitudinal Ageing Study in India?

AC: By 2050, 20% or more of the Indian population will be aged 60 and above, so we have to prepare ourselves, especially with regard to healthcare costs. We need tremendous investment in geriatric care, basic primary healthcare, better pension schemes, and better savings schemes. We also need to have communities for elderly living. But we still have a huge population base. Don't mix up the percentage with the number base. We can reduce the working age population so long as we have a very highly skilled population who earn well and will pay for these costs.

If population growth incentives don't work, then lower-fertility rate States may increase their working age population through migration from other States. What is the political fallout of that?

NS: Demographic anxieties have been showing up in one State after another. Even in a poorer State like West Bengal, there are demographic anxieties vis-a-vis Bangladesh. As for why this phenomenon happens, these are labour market vacancies. These are populations which have achieved a certain level of development, and yet the economy requires some people willing to do manual work, at a lower wage, in the sun. This is not a problem that can be solved by simply having more children. It is unlikely that demographic anxieties can be reduced as a function of the economic structure.

Migration is an economic phenomenon that is almost independent of the fertility rate, given what the economic condition of these States might be. The people who are being birthed there are very unlikely to be willing to do those jobs that people coming from north India are doing today in south India.

It boggles the mind that somebody is trying to reverse what is a very standard social phenomenon and demographic trend at this stage of development. I understand that there are challenges in Europe where countries are well below replacement rates. But this entire debate is bizarre for the very simple reason that there are so many things the government could be spending this kind of money on which would actually address the needs of an ageing population and an underemployed population. This is a very peculiar policy decision.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

To err is human; one can only accept, learn and get on with it

We never forget our first mistake at work and while it may certainly not be the last, we become better versions of ourselves over time

Kannal Achuthan

It was the year 2002 when two reporters at the beginning of their careers stood before a furious 'TNG'. One was me, the other was a fellow reporter who covered the crime beat.

TNG or T.N. Gopalan, then Tamil Nadu Bureau Chief of *The New Indian Express*, was in a fit of rage as he had to deal with idiot cub reporters when he would rather be re-reading *Das Kapital* in the original German.

I exited TNG's cabin with a cataract of tears and a ruptured ear-drum. There was nothing for my colleague and me to do except drown our sorrows in the lemon tea at the Rajendran roadside stall outside the Express office. Rajendran kindly added an extra scoop of sugar, and the parakeet couple that lived in a tree on the pavement offered commiserating squawks.

On November 18 of that fateful year, I was the reporter on night duty. I was two months into my first job as a daily news reporter. While on the shift, I would make a round of calls on the landline to the police, fire services, government hospitals and the weather department to check on developments. There was also an informal arrangement where we would call night-duty counterparts in other newspapers to check if they'd learnt of any late news alerts. A reporter in *Dinamalar* tipped me off on what he knew. A gangster in the city had been shot dead by the police, he said. I dutifully called the police, who gave out some details. I typed about 150 words and submitted the copy. The city desk was staffed by another young colleague, only a couple of years older than me. She used it to fill up a single column in the newspaper.

I did not think of telling the News Editor. Nor did I alert the Chief of Bureau or Chief Reporter. The crime reporter, who could have called in with more details, was probably asleep.

A job well done, I thought to myself. I did not realise then that an "encounter death" required far more serious treatment. That politics and human rights issues would be involved. That such cases can occupy courts for years. I'd treated a top story as a routine brief.

The Hindu, the only other morning newspaper in English in Chennai then, carried the story prominently, running it across four columns: 'Gangster Sura, alias Suresh, of Vyasarpadi had been shot dead in a predawn operation'.

The next day, my boss, TNG, pinned a warning memo on the reporting section's notice-board for all to read. It was printed out on a dot-matrix printer and was over a page long. My mind has blocked out parts of the trauma so I don't remember the details but the essence of the memo was that the crime reporter and I had dug ourselves deep in a four-letter word ending with 'it'. We had missed out on giving an important development the coverage it demanded. And I would be watched carefully to find out if I could continue with my job and, indeed, my career.

Over two decades have passed and I've managed to stick to the newsroom. Not that there haven't been missteps. In journalism, there is little room for slacking if you want to do a good job. Becoming complacent can mean missing a crucial story. On the desk, it can be vital to remember pitfalls that seasoned editors tell us to look out for and to keep deadlines sacrosanct. Otherwise, one had better be prepared for a dressing-down on the office WhatsApp group.

Course correction after making mistakes requires resilience and reflective thinking. As the lines in *Batman Begins* go, "Why do we fall, Bruce? So we can learn to pick ourselves up."

Along my journey, I've met several interesting colleagues – those who served me the bitter but healthy lesson on humility, those who laughed with me over goofups, those who showed the way by example, and those who offered second chances. I may have become a little wiser.

And what of the former colleague, my Express partner in crime and punishment on the encounter story? Perhaps I did something right. Reader, I married him.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

The hunger for stability

For a seat: Candidates appearing for the Uttar Pradesh Police Constable Examination sit outside an exam centre in Lucknow on June 8. There are 32,679 vacancies for which 28,86,797 candidates have registered. The exam took place across 1,183 centres from June 8 to 10, under tight security amid paper leak concerns. SANDEEP SAXENA

FROM THE ARCHIVES — The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 12, 1976

Rly. Ministry's steps to check murder & dacoity

Madras, June 11: Concerned at the growing murder and dacoity menace on the railways, the Union Railway Minister has held discussions with the Chief Ministers of West Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh recently. Following these discussions, the three Chief Ministers have assured the Railway Minister that they would take steps to ensure close co-operation in fighting the menace.

The Ministry has also taken several measures to reorganise the Railway Protection Force and to invest them with powers of reporting and investigating crimes, thus relieving the Government Railway Police of their duties. This is imperative because about 40 RPF personnel have laid down their lives in the past while protecting railway property.

The Inspector General of RPF, Mr. R.D. Singh, to-day called on Mr. E.L. Stracey, Inspector General of Police, Tamil Nadu, and discussed with him, measures to help the RPF in crime detection work. Mr. Stracey has agreed to train 150 RPF personnel in crime reporting, detection, investigation and prosecution. The IG of Police, Tamil Nadu, has also promised to provide accommodation for the RPF personnel and give them detailed instructions through well qualified instructors and experts in crime detection.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 12, 1926

The Darwin of Botany

London, June 11: Sir Jagdish Chandra Bose was entertained at a luncheon to-day by the British Indian Union. Lord Lee of Fareham, who presided, paid a tribute to Sir J.C. Bose's work in the cause of science and humanity. He stated that he understood that this "Darwin of Botany" hoped to make it possible to substitute plants for animals for vivisection.

Sir Jagdish emphasising the importance of science, said for the economic welfare of a vast continent like India, there must be two complementary activities, industry and agriculture, both depending on science.

From Page One

Trump backs off from Iran strikes; deal likely

Mr. Trump's threats, Iran's counter-threats, his abrupt U-turn and claims of progress in talks all came within hours, following another round of U.S. air strikes on Iran and Tehran's retaliation against U.S. bases in the region.

U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) said its forces launched strikes on Iranian military surveillance capabilities, communication systems, and air defence sites across Iran in the early hours of Thursday (local time).

"U.S. Marine Corps, Air Force, and Navy assets fired precision munitions on Iranian targets that posed a threat to U.S. forces and international commercial ships transiting regional waters," the CENTCOM said in a statement, adding that the attacks were "in response to Iran's unwarranted and continued aggression".

Iranian state media confirmed that Hormozgan and other southern regions were attacked by the U.S. In response, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) launched two waves of strikes targeting American military bases in three countries in the region, the Guards said.

"Eighteen key targets belonging to the criminal U.S. military were struck and destroyed at the Ali al-Salem and Ahmad al-Jaber airbases in Kuwait, as well as the Sheikh Isa airbase in Bahrain," the IRGC said.

BJP's RS candidates in M.P. elected unopposed

Outgoing Rajya Sabha member and senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh demanded Mr. Sharma's dismissal, while terming the rejection "unconstitutional". He is vacating a Rajya Sabha seat on June 21 which the Congress had hoped to fill by sending Ms. Natarajan to the Upper House.

"Our worst fears have materialised. The EC has failed to reach a decision. We urged the Supreme Court to deliver a verdict today, but that did not happen. By 4 p.m., the election results were declared. We vehemently oppose this act of theft... We will fight this battle to the very end and ensure that Meenakshi Natarajan makes it to the Rajya Sabha," Mr. Singh said.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, Umang Singhar, also slammed the EC and accused it of bias in favour of the ruling party. "Given that the EC has special powers to intervene and take decisions, why was no timely decision taken on the Congress's objection? Why is there such proactivity in matters concerning the BJP, yet silence regarding the Congress," Mr. Singhar asked, adding that the matter concerned the nation's democratic process and electoral impartiality.

SC agrees to hear plea against rejection today

Contending that the rejection of Ms. Natarajan's nomination was legally untenable, senior counsel argued that the criminal proceedings relied upon by the Returning Officer (RO) had not advanced to the stage where a competent court had taken cognisance of the complaint. "My nomination has been rejected even though there is no cognisance taken by the court. How can they do this?" he submitted.

Justice Mishra, however, asked how the petition could be entertained once the election process was already under way. Mr. Singhvi responded that judicial intervention was permissible in cases involving a patent error and contended that refusing to do so would leave the petitioner without an effective remedy for years.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, who appeared for the three BJP Rajya Sabha candidates from Madhya Pradesh, said they were not made parties to the petition and were opposing the mentioning. Appearing for the Election Commission (EC), senior advocate D.S. Naidu questioned the maintainability of the plea and submitted that the petitioner's remedy lay elsewhere.

The court finally agreed to list the plea for a hearing on Friday.

Homemakers build nation: Supreme Court

The top court also noted the need to shift from the stereotypical terminology of daily usage from "housewife" to "homemaker".

Recognising all aspects of being a homemaker and the unpaid labour that a homemaker undertakes, the court directed the Motor Accidents Claim Tribunal (MACT) to award a separate compensation of ₹30,000 per month under the head of "domestic care" in cases involving death of a homemaker. It clarified that this amount would be treated as the minimum value of a homemaker's unpaid work and would increase by 10% every three years. If the homemaker also had a paid job, this amount would be awarded in addition to her income.

However, the court resorted to the application of homemaker to the traditional image of woman. The court said, "...for the purposes of the present case and more particularly the quantification of domestic efforts, we limit its application to the quintessential and traditional image, that of a woman."

Two killed as violence flares up in Manipur; NPF office stormed

Unidentified gunmen kill a Kuki man and woman in Kamjong district's Kuluth village close to the Myanmar border; mob storms Naga People's Front office in Senapati over deaths of six Nagas, sets furniture and other properties on fire

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Unidentified gunmen killed a Kuki man and a woman at a village in Kamjong district in Manipur early in the morning on Thursday after violence broke out in Senapati district over the alleged killing of six Nagas taken hostage on May 13.

Both districts are Naga-dominated.

Officials in the State's capital, Imphal, confirmed the death of two persons at Kamjong district's Kuluth village near the India-Myanmar border. At least two others were reported injured.

The Eastern Kuki Chiefs' Association said the attackers belonged to an armed Naga group.

"The attackers mercilessly set fire to seven houses, including the village church, causing extensive destruction to both private property and a sacred place of worship," it said in a statement.

Bodies, suspected to be of six Naga persons abducted on May 13, being brought to a mortuary in Imphal on Thursday . PTI

On the other hand, the Eastern Command Naga Village Guard blamed the attack on an armed Kuki group in conflict with another Kuki extremist group over area domination along the International Border. The Naga organisation claimed that one of the Kuki groups was Myanmar-based.

On Wednesday night, a mob stormed the office of the Naga People's Front (NPF) in Senapati town, and set its furniture and other properties on fire.

The NPF, a Nagaland-headquartered party, is an ally of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Manipur. The regional party has five MLAs in the 60-member Manipur Assembly.

The mob vented its ire on the NPF office after the security forces recovered the bodies of six Liangmai Nagas, allegedly abducted by Kuki extremists after three Thadou tribal church leaders were gunned down in Kangpokpi district on May 13.

One of the reasons behind the storming of the NPF office was the perception that the party's key leader and Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio played a key role in the release of 14 Kuki hostages by Nagas on Tuesday, without securing the release of the six Nagas held captive by the Kukis.

The mortal remains of the six Nagas were recovered on Wednesday after nearly 24 hours of sustained search operations involving about 450 personnel of the Manipur Police, Central Reserve Police Force, and Assam Rifles.

24-hour shutdown

The United Naga Council called a 24-hour shutdown to protest the alleged killing of the six Naga men. The shutdown affected normal life in the Naga-inhabited areas on Thursday.

In Meitei-dominated Imphal, hundreds of protesters gathered outside the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences after the mortal remains of the six Nagas were taken there for post-mortem on Wednesday night.

'No AFSPA in most of Northeast from 2027'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, or AFSPA, will be withdrawn from the entire Northeast next year, barring one or two States.

Speaking after signing a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Centre, Assam, and Nagaland on mineral and oil operations in the disputed Assam-Nagaland boundary areas, Mr. Shah said fewer areas being covered under AFSPA indicate peace in the region.

"I am confident that barring one or two States, we will withdraw AFSPA from the entire Northeast next year," he said.

The Home Minister termed the MoU a "historic moment" and said it removed the last hurdle in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a developed Northeast.

France backs 'Make in India' in defence, signals new model for Rafale deal

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to France for the G7 Summit, French diplomatic sources on Thursday said the nation's future defence cooperation with India, including the proposed Rafale fighter jet deal, will be aligned with the 'Make in India' initiative and based on an equal partnership.

Narendra Modi will hold bilateral talks with French President Emmanuel Macron on the sidelines of the G7 Summit. FILE PHOTO

France has reiterated its commitment to India's 'Make in India' programme in the defence sector, signalling that the proposed procurement of 114 Rafale fighter jets for the Indian Air Force (IAF) would be structured differently from previous defence deals.

During the visit on June 13-14, Mr. Modi is scheduled to hold bilateral talks with French President Emmanuel Macron on the sidelines of the summit.

India is currently advancing a mega defence acquisition programme, estimated at around ₹3.25 lakh crore, for 114 Rafale fighter aircraft from the IAF.

According to French diplomatic sources, the proposed collaboration is being envisioned as a partnership based on co-development and industrial cooperation rather than a traditional client-vendor arrangement.

"The defence programmes developed jointly by France will be fully aligned with India's 'Make in India' requirements," a source said. The sources stressed that the partnership was based on an "equal-to-equal" approach.

Civil nuclear energy is expected to feature prominently in discussions between Mr. Macron and Mr. Modi. French officials expressed optimism about the prospects of enhanced cooperation in the nuclear sector, citing recent legislative reforms in India.

One year since AI-171 crash, pilot body questions delay in release of final report

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

On the first anniversary of Air India flight AI-171 crash in Ahmedabad, the Federation of Indian Pilots has questioned the delay in releasing the final investigation report. It urged authorities not to publish an incomplete interim report, warning that it could add to confusion and speculation on the cause of the accident.

"We are at one year since the crash. Why is the AAIB [Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau] unable to investigate a flight of 32 seconds," the federation's president C.S. Randhawa asked at a press conference in Ahmedabad.

The June 2025 incident claimed 261 lives – 242 onboard and 19 on the ground.

A preliminary investigation report found that the aircraft's fuel control switches had moved to the cut-off position, interrupting fuel supply to the engines moments before the crash. While the report stopped short of determining whether the switch movement was the result of a deliberate action or inadvertently done or a technical malfunction, it included a brief cockpit exchange between the plane's two pilots that has triggered widespread speculation on the cause of the accident.

Captain C.S. Randhawa

Pilot associations have condemned the inclusion of the excerpt, arguing that it has contributed to the building of a narrative around pilot involvement before the investigation reached a definitive conclusion.

On Thursday, Mr. Randhawa warned that an incomplete, interim report could cause more confusion. "If there are no conclusive findings, we have asked the government to wait until the probe is concluded and publish the final report," he added.

Analysis under way

Government officials said an interim report on the Air India AI-171 crash would be released soon. They added that analysis of data from the aircraft's engines, manufactured by U.S.-based General Electric, was still under way at the manufacturer's facilities in the U.S., contributing to the delay in releasing the final report.

Delhi HC quashes FIR, ED money laundering case against Newsclick

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has quashed a first information report (FIR) registered against the digital news platform Newsclick and its founder Prabir Purkayastha, holding that the allegations relating to foreign direct investment (FDI), share valuation and expenditure of funds did not disclose offences of cheating or criminal breach of trust.

In a judgment delivered on May 29, Justice Neena Bansal Krishna quashed the FIR registered by the Economic Offences Wing on August 26, 2020, observing that even if all allegations in the complaint were accepted at face value, essential ingredients of the offences were not made out.

The court quashed the Enforcement Directorate's ECIR registered on September 2, 2020, under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), noting that the money laundering case was founded on the same allegations forming the basis of the FIR.

Prabir Purkayastha

'Overvaluing shares'

The Delhi Police's FIR alleged that PPK Newsclick Studio Private Ltd. received FDI of ₹9.59 crore from Worldwide Media Holdings LLC, the U.S., during the financial year 2018-19 in exchange of 7.69% shares of the company. The FIR said the investment was made by overvaluing the shares of the petitioner company to avoid the alleged cap of 26% FDI in a digital news website. It alleged that over 45% of this investment was diverted or siphoned off towards the payment of salary/consultancy fees, rent, and other expenses, which were alleged to have been made for ulterior motives. The ED initiated its probe on the basis of the police FIR. The court, however, noted that at the time the investment was made, there was no cap on FDI in digital news media.

The court further stated that FEMA regulations required shares issued to foreign investors to be priced at not less than their fair value and that the fair value of the equity shares had been determined by an independent valuer as ₹9,188 per share.

It said the eventual issue price of ₹11,510 per share to Worldwide Media was the result of negotiations between the investor and the company. "It is an economic decision which does not spell out any criminal offence," the judge said.

The petitioners have been charged with the offence under Section 420 IPC which deals with cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property.

Allegations of cheating

Justice Krishna remarked that for the offence of cheating, it is necessary that there must be an aggrieved person who has been cheated of his valuable property. It said there was no complaint by Worldwide Media about having been cheated by Newsclick.

"Pertinently, the complaint had been made by one Shoban Singh, who was merely an informant and was not the aggrieved person," it said.

Similarly, the court found that the offence of criminal breach of trust under Section 406 IPC was absent because there was no entrustment of property that could have been misappropriated. The transaction was merely one of investment and purchase of shares, it said.

J&K Chief Minister raises Statehood demand with PM

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah raised the issue of Statehood with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a meeting in Delhi on Thursday.

The National Conference (NC), which is currently in power in J&K, plans to hold a protest in Delhi on the first day of the upcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament to press for the restoration of Statehood for J&K.

Mr. Abdullah, in a post on X, said he called on Mr. Modi in Delhi "to discuss issues of importance to J&K, including the early return of Statehood, the state of the economy, pace of development, and promotion of tourism".

NC president Farooq Abdullah, while speaking in Srinagar, said the party's constitutional struggle for the restoration of Statehood and rights will continue. He said all J&K's political parties were united on this demand.

APPEAL

Master Somnath Rajbanshi, Manipal Hospital No.MH018473384, 14 months has been Diagnosed to be Suffering from Congenital Heart Disease, Moderate PM VSD, Dilated LA and LV. He requires to undergo VSD surgical closure. The Estimated cost of the Surgery is Rs.4,00,000/-.

Please send donation however small by Cheque/D.D/M.O Fav. **Save Poor Lives** A/c Somnath Rajbanshi, **Our A/c Details:** S/B A/c No. 20000913487. S.B.I. R.A.Puram, IFSC CODE:SBIN0001855. Please Donate by G-pay No.9884607377, UPI Id: savepoorlives@oksbi. Donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

SAVE POOR LIVES, Flat No. A1, Ceebros Garden, Door No.14/76, Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai-600028. Ph. No. 044 42044165 / 9884607377. Email: savepoorlives@gmail.com. Our website: www.savepoorlives.com

HC questions Speaker's move making Ritabrata LoP

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Thursday questioned the Speaker's decision to recognise expelled Trinamool Congress MLA Ritabrata Banerjee as the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) of the West Bengal Assembly without the consent of the political party.

While hearing a plea filed by the Trinamool against Speaker Rathindra Bose's move to accept a group of 59 rebel MLAs' proposal to recognise Mr. Ritabrata as the LoP instead of Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay, a single-judge Bench of the court asked the State, "The person, who was appointed as the LoP, doesn't belong to any party. He was expelled. Can the Speaker recognise a rebel leader as the LoP without the consent of a political party?"

In response, the State, represented by Additional Advocate-General Bilwadal Bhattacharya, sought time to file an affidavit. The court scheduled the next hearing for June 16.

Cong. to mount legal, political battle over rejection of Rajya Sabha papers

Party calls the issue a case of 'seat *chori*' by 'the BJP-EC *jugalbandi*'; the party plans a nation-wide agitation on inflation, unemployment, NEET paper leak, CBSE OSM row, and other issues; protest campaign likely to begin by the end of June

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday said it would challenge the rejection of its Madhya Pradesh candidate Meenakshi Natarajan's nomination for the Rajya Sabha election legally and politically. It also announced a nationwide campaign on issues such as inflation, unemployment, the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) and other paper leaks, and the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) On-Screen Marking (OSM) controversy.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the party's top leadership, presided over by Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and attended by Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, party general secretaries K.C. Venugopal, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and Jairam Ramesh and other leaders. In a post on X, Mr. Gandhi called the candidacy issue a case of seat *chori* [theft] and said that it is easier to fix elections with the help of the Election Commission rather than win them. "After vote *Chori* and *Sarkar Chori* – the BJP-EC *jugalbandi* [tie-up] has finished the contest before it has even begun with Seat *Chori*."

Protest rite: Congress workers perform 'Sadbuddhi Yagya' in Bikaner over the Rajya Sabha nomination controversy. ANI

'Differential treatment'

"Congress candidate Meenakshi Natarajan*ji* submitted every document. No pending cases. The EC cancelled her nomination on a frivolous BJP objection. Parimal Nathwani*ji*, the BJP-backed Independent, got his own name wrong on the form and skipped multiple mandatory disclosures. The EC gave him an extension to fix everything," he said. The Opposition leader added that the same EC treated two candidates very differently.

"One was disqualified without even a hearing. The other was rewarded despite not following the rules," Mr. Gandhi said.

Soon, the 60-odd Congress MLAs from Madhya Pradesh are likely to launch a protest against the decision of the Returning Officer in New Delhi.

In a post on X, Mr. Kharge said the country was facing serious challenges, including inflation, unemployment, examination scandals and social inequality. "Paper leaks in NEET and various recruitment exams, along with controversies related to the education system, have shaken the trust of millions of youth and their families..," he said.

New campaign in talks

"Today, unfortunately, we see that those institutions and systems which took decades to build are being deliberately weakened. Therefore, our responsibility is not only toward political struggle, but also toward safeguarding India's Constitution, democracy, and social justice," Mr. Kharge said.

The party has drawn up a list of issues which would be highlighted in a three-four-month-long campaign. Though the exact modalities are being worked out, the campaign is expected to start by the end of June.

Mr. Gandhi is said to have urged his colleagues to stand with the people, telling them that price rise, fuel shortage, paper leaks are because of "wrong policies" of the Prime Minister. Ms. Vadra reportedly said the party should focus on a targeted campaign.

Addressing a press conference with Mr. Ramesh after the nearly three-hour meeting, Mr. Venugopal described recent developments in Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand as a matter of "great worry".

Calling the Madhya Pradesh episode "seat *chori*", he said the developments reflected the "pathetic condition of Indian democracy". "Today's meeting discussed the matter in detail. We will fight this politically and legally," he said.

Angry youth: Cockroach Janta Party supporters participate in the protest at Savitribai Phule Pune University on Thursday. PTI

At Pune protest, CJP unveils manifesto on examination reforms

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) on Thursday staged a protest at the Ambedkar statue at Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) in Pune, releasing a five-point manifesto recommending reforms in the examination process across the country.

The CJP, which began with a satirical social media post in response to a critical remark by the Chief Justice of India last month, is fast evolving into a mass movement of youth focused on grievances with the examination system and demanding the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke presented the movement's manifesto, which demanded compensation of ₹10,000 per candidate in the event of a paper leak to cover preparation and travel expenses; declaration of results within one month of an exam; advance announcement of back-up dates whenever an exam is cancelled to reduce mental stress on students; physical evaluation of answer sheets instead of assessments based on digital scans; a guarantee that exam delays will not affect candidates due to age limits nor reduce their number of attempts; and an independent body to audit examination tenders.

Indefinite protest soon

"If they are not ready for simple resignation and admit the mistake, then how can we expect them to fix the education system. It starts with admitting a mistake," Mr. Dipke said.

Announcing he would start an indefinite protest in Delhi on June 20, he appealed to students to join him.

Mr. Dipke and other CJP supporters also plan to campaign across the country to create credibility for their assurance that "this movement can do something". He said, "It has been just 15 days, give us time to decide on the course of action. If you have given 12 years of time to people in power, give us at least 12 weeks."

"The government must take accountability for their mistakes for which students are paying the cost," said Ladakhi activist Sonam Wangchuk who participated in the protest. Several other activists, including Asim Sarode, also extended their support during the SPPU agitation, raising slogans such as '*Zimmedari leni hogi* (Responsibility must be taken)' and 'I am cockroach'.

Loyalist Kalyan hits out at Abhishek, calls him 'arrogant'

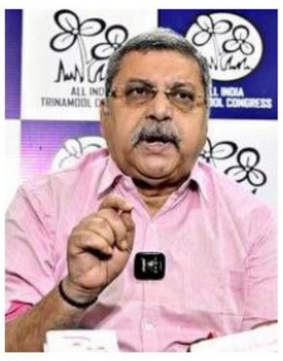
Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Trinamool Congress MP and senior leader Kalyan Banerjee lashed out at party general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Thursday, calling him "arrogant". He also gave an ultimatum to Trinamool supremo Mamata Banerjee, asking her to choose between him and Mr. Abhishek. His remarks came amid the escalating crisis in the party.

A senior advocate, Mr. Kalyan said he would remove himself from all legal matters involving Mr. Abhishek. Mr. Kalyan was representing the Diamond Harbour MP at the Calcutta High Court in the signature forgery case.

"Henceforth, I will not be appearing in any matter for Abhishek Banerjee. I do not like this arrogant attitude. One must respect their seniors, I have 45 years of experience in this profession... How can he insult me," Mr. Kalyan asked after giving up Mr. Abhishek's case.

He also said that another legal counsel of Mr. Abhishek had filed a separate writ petition on the same issue and that he was taken aback by the development. He said had he known about the new case, he would not have brought it before the judge, as two Benches cannot hear the same matter. He also alleged that the new case was filed after instructions "from the top".



Kalyan Banerjee

"He [Mr. Abhishek] must understand that because of him we have lost the elections. But he will go around disrespecting everyone," Mr. Kalyan said.

However, Mr. Kalyan added that he would continue to appear for cases and legal matters related to the party. The Sreerampur MP said if Ms. Mamata chose to side with her nephew, then she would have to let him go. "If you let go of Abhishek Banerjee, then I am there. He destroyed the party," Mr. Kalyan said.

The leader has, so far, been a staunch loyalist of Ms. Mamata.

Sign forgery case: Abhishek appears before CID

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Thursday appeared before the West Bengal Police's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in connection with a case involving forgery of signatures of MLAs.

He appeared before the CID at the police headquarters after the Calcutta High Court had earlier in the day directed him to do so over the Vidhan Sabha signature scam probe at 6 p.m.

The High Court granted a three-week interim protection to Mr. Banerjee, directing that the CID cannot take any coercive action as long as he cooperates with the probe.

The court will hear the matter after two weeks and sought a report from the CID over the investigation.

The CID investigation was prompted after an FIR was filed in relation to the complaint by Trinamool MLAs Ritabrata Banerjee and Sandipan Saha alleging that their signatures were forged in the letter nominating Sovandeb Chattopadhyay as the Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly. The letter was submitted to the Speaker on May 20.

Mamata stood by me; now it's my duty to stand by her: MP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Two Trinamool Congress Lok Sabha members – Shatrughan Sinha and Pratima Mondol – have publicly reaffirmed their loyalty to party founder and president Mamata Banerjee, putting to rest talk of defection.

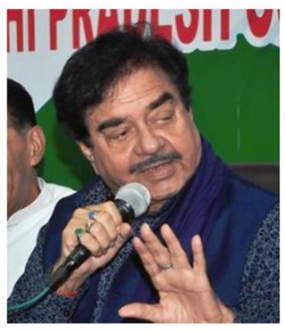
An Actor-turned-politician, Mr. Sinha, who represents Asansol, joined the Trinamool in 2022, after quitting the BJP and a short stint in the Congress. He said Ms. Banerjee stood by him during a difficult time.

"Today, in her difficult phase, I cannot abandon her," he said.

Mr. Sinha, who is a multi-term MP from Bihar, contested the bypoll from the Asansol Lok Sabha constituency in 2022. "I first came to Asansol at *Didi*'s [Mamata's] invitation. In my very first election there, I won by a record-margin. I also won a second time by a significant margin," he said.

"After I lost the Patna election in 2019, I was in a difficult situation and very few people came to my aid. Mamata Banerjee was among the few who supported and encouraged me," Mr. Sinha said.

He rejected speculation that he had joined the rebels. "I was elected on the Trinamool Congress symbol – the *Jora Phool* – not once but twice, with the blessings of God. My principle is very clear: Mamata *ji* stood by me, it is now my duty to stand by her in this moment as well," he added.



Shatrughan Sinha

Amid defection rumours, Shatrughan Sinha and Pratima Mondol reaffirms their loyalty to the Trinamool supremo

Ms. Mondol, a three-time MP for Jaynagar, a reserved constituency, distanced herself from the rebel group.

"I have not signed any papers. I am not part of that group. I do not know why they are using my name," she said.

Fresh setback for Trinamool as another RS member quits

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

In another jolt to the Trinamool Congress, a third Rajya Sabha member, Prakash Chik Barik, resigned from the Upper House and the party on Thursday.

Mr. Barik, who was a Minister in the Cabinet of former Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, submitted his resignation letter to Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan.

However, he did not specify any reason for the decision.

"People have favoured the BJP over the Trinamool... I have resigned in view of the people's mandate... I have not spoken to Mamata Banerjee as of now. I will work as per Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari's instructions in the future. I will work for development," said Mr. Barik after the resignation, while sitting at the official residence of BJP MP for Jharkhand's Godda, Nishikant Dubey, at Safdarjung in Delhi.

Sukhendu Sekhar Roy and Sushmita Dev, MPs, resigned on Monday and Wednesday, respectively.

With Mr. Barik's resignation, the Trinamool's strength in the Rajya Sabha is set to fall to 10 MPs from the earlier 13.

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, M&H, Div.-II, Jaipur
No 435 Date : 02/06/2026
Notice Inviting Bid No.05/2026-27
Bids for 01 (One Nos.) Work are invited from interested bidders upto 06:00 PM dated 24.06.2026 Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state and M&H departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is **Rs. 500.00 Lacs.**
UBN No: MHS2627WSRC01400
Executive Engineer
DIPR/C/9986/26 **M&H, Div.-II, Jaipur**

OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER
PWD ZONE-II JODHPUR (HQ-BARMER)
No. 730 **Date 05.06.2026**
Notice Inviting Bid No. 01/2026-27
NIB- PWD2627A0940
Bid for Civil Works (Road and Building) are invited from interested bidders upto Date 29.06.2026, 06.00 PM other particulars of the bid may be visisted on the procurement portal (http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state, The approximate value procurement is Rs. **5533.00 Lac.**
UBN No.

1. PWD2627WLOB04068	2. PWD2627WLOB04071	3. PWD2627WLOB04074
4. PWD2627WLOB04077		

Addl. Chief Engineer
DIPR/C/10118/2026 **PWD Zone-II Jodhpur(HQ-Barmer)**

PUNJAB STATE WAREHOUSING CORPORATION
SCO 74-75, BANK SQUARE,SECTOR-178 CHANDIGARH
PBX: 0172-5197847, 5197846
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
PSWC invites online tenders through GeM Portal for creation of 3.75 LMT godown capacities at 09 locations in the State of Punjab for guaranteed lease of 10 years on Build, Own and Operate/Lease basis for storage requirements of FCI under two bid system 'Technical Bid' and 'Financial Bid'.
NIT (alongwith GeM Bid IDs) is available on Department's website i.e. **https://pswc.in**
PSWC reserves the right to scrap the tender at any stage without assigning any reason and PSWC will not be held liable for any costs and consequences incurred by the intending bidders.
Note: Any corrigendum(s)/Notification(s) to this Notice Inviting E-Tender shall be published Department's website & GeM Portal.
1004/12/2026-27/12240 **Managing Director, PSWC**

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, P.W.D., CIRCLE-JHALAWAR
Room No. – 158, Ground Floor (Public Works Department), Mini Secretariat, Jhalawar
E-mail :- piu_jhalawar@rediffmail.com/sejwar.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in
Phone No. :- 07432-233336
S. No. :- 234 Date :- 04.06.2026
NIT No. 09/2026-27
Notice Inviting Bid
NIB No. PWD2627A0920
Bids for Const. of Road from Lasudiya shah to Gokulpura & 21 Nos. ML Roads in Jhalrapatan Constituency Distt. Jhalawar are invited from interested bidders upto 6.00 PM, Dated 01.07.2026 Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://erpoc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the Rajasthan and http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 2304.76 Lacs.

S. No.	UBN No.	S. No.	UBN No.	S. No.	UBN No.
1	PWD2627WSOB03959	2	PWD2627WSOB03960	3	PWD2627WSOB03961
4	PWD2627WSOB03963	5	PWD2627WSOB03966	6	PWD2627WSOB03967
7	PWD2627WSOB03968	8	PWD2627WSOB03970	9	PWD2627WSOB03971
10	PWD2627WSOB03972	11	PWD2627WSOB03973	12	PWD2627WSOB03974
13	PWD2627WSOB03976	14	PWD2627WSOB03978	15	PWD2627WSOB03981

(Mukesh Chand Meena)
Superintending Engineer
Public Works Department
Circle-Jhalawar
DIPR/C/10067/2026

MAHATRANSCO
Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/21 - 2026-27
Tenders are invited through e-Tendering in SRM Two Bid system from the registered vendors for Supply of following:

Tender No. & Description of Material	Estimated Amount (in Rs. Lakhs) / Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) for Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/T-12/0626_TKC1 **RFx 7000040254 (1st Call)** for Work of replacement of existing 0.2 ACSR Panther conductor by equivalent HPC (High Performance Conductor) along with suitable hardware, accessories and insulators for i) 132kV Dhule-Sakri Line and 132kV Shivajinagar- Sakri Line Ckt-I, ii) 132kV Pimperkhed- Chalisgaon iii) 132kV Malkapur- Juniper Solar (Tighre) iv) 132kV Manmad- Chalisgaon along with replacement of EHV equipments at associated substations under EHV PC O&M Zones, Nashik.	Rs. 11730.20 Lakhs (Incl. GST) Rs. 9940.85 Lakhs (Excl. GST) 25,000.00+GST	09.07.2026 18:00 Hrs 09.07.2026 18:05 Hrs

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (TKC1)
CPA, C.O. MSETCL, 1st Floor, Prakashgad Building, Bandra (E), Mumbai. Tel. No.: 022-69852717
Email id: cecpa@mahatransco.in, secpa@mahatransco.in, eetkc1cpa@mahatransco.in, eepc@mahatransco.in
For further details visit our website **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in/**
Any further amendments/clarifications will be published on the MSETCL website **www.mahatransco.in**. & **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in/** . Bidders are therefore requested to check these websites for further updates.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer (P&C)

MAHATRANSCO
Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/20 - 2026-27
Tenders are invited through e-Tendering in SRM Two Bid system from the registered vendors for Supply of following:

Tender No. & Description of Material	Estimated Amount (in Rs. Lakhs) / Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) for Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/T-11/0626_TKC1 **RFx 7000040238 (1st Call)** for Work of replacement of existing 0.2 ACSR Panther conductor by equivalent HPC (High Performance Conductor) along with suitable hardware, accessories and insulators for i) 132kV Kekatnimbhora - Pahur Line, ii) 132kV Akole-Kombhalne and iii) 132kV Manmad- Pimperkhed along with replacement of EHV equipments at associated substations under EHV PC O&M Zones, Nashik	Rs. 6653.55 Lakhs (Incl. GST) Rs. 5638.60 Lakhs (Excl. GST) 25,000.00+GST	09.07.2026 18:00 Hrs 09.07.2026 18:05 Hrs

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (TKC1)
CPA, C.O. MSETCL, 1st Floor, Prakashgad Building, Bandra (E), Mumbai. Tel. No.: 022-69852717
Email id: cecpa@mahatransco.in, secpa@mahatransco.in, eetkc1cpa@mahatransco.in, eepc@mahatransco.in
For further details visit our website **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in/**
Any further amendments/clarifications will be published on the MSETCL website **www.mahatransco.in**. & **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in/** . Bidders are therefore requested to check these websites for further updates.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer (P&C)

INBRIEF

CBI brings back two fugitives from Georgia and Thailand

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has facilitated the return of two fugitives from Georgia and Thailand through Interpol channels and in coordination with the ministries of external and home affairs. In the first case, accused Vainket Garg (in picture) was wanted by the Haryana Police in multiple cases of murder, attempted murder, extortion, organised crime and possession of legal arms. He was brought from Georgia to India on Thursday. The second case is related to Ganesh Balaso Kale, who was deported from Thailand. He was wanted in connection with cybercrime fraud.

Navy recovers unexploded missile warhead from tanker

The Navy has successfully carried out a complex and high-risk operation to recover and safely dispose of an unexploded missile warhead from a crude oil tanker that was en route to Kochi after suffering damage off the coast of Oman. It said that the Marshall Islands-flagged tanker *MT Olympic Life*, sailing from Fujairah in the UAE to Kochi, reported an explosion in its hull on May 26. The vessel informed authorities about the presence of an unexploded ordnance onboard. Upon receiving information, the Navy launched a coordinated response. The recovered ordnance has since been transported to a secure facility.

U.S. attacks third ship with Indian seafarers, crew safe

External Affairs Ministry says 'deeply worried' by attacks but blames conflict in the region; U.S. Centcom says missiles were fired into *Jalveer*'s engine room as directions were not complied with

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI/NEW DELHI

U.S. forces attacked a merchant ship carrying Indian seafarers for the third time in four days. Thursday's attack was on Guinea-Bissau flagged bitumen carrier *Jalveer* off the port of Shinas, Oman.

The vessel had 20 Indian seafarers, and they were safe, said Mukesh Mangal, Additional Secretary of the Ports, Shipping and Waterways Ministry. "As per the latest information, evacuation [of crew] to Shinas port has commenced," Mr. Mangal said at an inter-ministerial briefing on Thursday.

On Wednesday , the External Affairs Ministry had summoned the U.S. Chargé d'affaires Jason Meeks and lodged a "strong protest" regarding the attacks.

On Thursday, the Ministry, while emphasising that the "attacks came from the U.S. Navy stationed there", described the strikes as "deeply worrisome" but blamed them on the ongoing conflict between U.S.-Israel and Iran in the region. U.S. Centcom has said in a statement that two Hellfire missiles were fired into *Jalveer*'s engine room after the "crew repeatedly failed to comply with directions from U.S. forces". The ship was attacked for "attempting to transport Iranian oil."

The commercial vessel *Jalveer* attacked off the coast of Oman on Thursday. FORWARD SEAMEN'S UNION OF INDIA/ANI

Jalveer's safety manager is an Indian company located in Chembur, Mumbai, as per the Equasis database.

U.S. aircraft attacked Palau-flagged tankers *Marivex* and *Settebello* on Monday and Wednesday, respectively. Three Indian seafarers on *Settebello* died in the attack, which the Indian government confirmed on Thursday.

The three attacks have targeted the engine rooms of the ships and sometimes the steering compartment but above the waterline. This would render the ship without the means to move or manoeuvre but not sink it. The Directorate General of Shipping had issued an advisory mid-February asking seafarer recruiters and shipowners not to deploy seafarers on ships calling on Iranian ports. An official source said the crew onboard the three vessels had joined before the advisory was issued.

Family members of seafarer Aditya Sharma (23), a deck cadet on *Settebello* who was among the dead, urged the government of Himachal Pradesh, where they live, and the Centre to get his body back to the native Galore village in Hamirpur so that his last rites could be performed. Sharma was planning to visit home in May but decided to extend his stay at the vessel for a month, they said.

The official spokesperson of the External Affairs Ministry Randhir Jaiswal said efforts are under way to bring back the mortal remains of the dead.

Condemning the attacks, the Congress said in a statement that PM Narendra Modi had "repeatedly showcased his personal rapport with President Donald Trump as a diplomatic achievement" and that Mr. Modi should "not evade responsibility when that relationship fails to protect Indian lives and interests."

(Inputs from Kallol Bhattacherjee, M. Kalyanaraman and PTI)

IIT-K hires hacker who flagged CBSE 'vulnerabilities'

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, (IIT-K) has hired the 19-year-old ethical hacker, Nisarga Adhikary, who exposed 'critical vulnerabilities' in Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)'s IT ecosystem.

Mr. Adhikary will work as an 'OSINT and threat intelligence engineer' in C3iHub, a not-for-profit Section 8 company housed in IIT-K. Founded six years ago, C3iHub employs 200 persons of whom 170-180 are engineers.

On his visit to Delhi earlier in June as part of the IIT expert team to strengthen the CBSE portals for re-evaluation and on-screen marking, IIT-K Director Manindra Agarwal met with Mr. Adhikary and his parents.

A team of cybersecurity experts, including Mr. Agarwal, sought to understand the teenager's take on critical vulnerabilities in the CBSE portals which led to leaking of sensitive student data such as answer scripts.

"I helped the IIT expert member team with security audits. They asked me to find vulnerabilities in the new post-result portal and I helped them," Mr. Adhikary said.

New course

Mr. Agarwal told *The Hindu* that Mr. Adhikary "will be able to expand his knowledge base and work on various projects alongside experts of all kinds looking after various aspects of cybersecurity".

To encourage bright students like Mr. Adhikary, the IIT-K is launching a Bachelor's in cybersecurity course. Admission will not be through JEE (Advanced), Mr. Agarwal said.

"Instead, the student intake will be through a hackathon. We will pick the best students and train them for the first two years on theoretical aspects of cybersecurity which will be hands-on training in a controlled environment and then they will do an internship in government-run security agencies to expose them to live settings," he said.

Mr. Adhikary said he has shifted his base from West Bengal to Kanpur three days ago and joined work at C3iHub on Wednesday .

After many extensions, panel's report on SC status for Dalit converts ready

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The Justice K.G. Balakrishnan (retd) Commission examining the issue of Scheduled Caste status for Dalit converts has finished its study and prepared the report it was tasked with almost four years ago, *The Hindu* has learnt.

Justice K.G. Balakrishnan

The three-member Commission of Inquiry was constituted by the government in October 2022, just as the Supreme Court was about to resume hearing a batch of pleas that sought Scheduled Caste status for Dalit Muslims and Christians. The issue has been pending in the top court for 20 years now.

The commission's mandate included examining whether Scheduled Caste status can be granted to Dalits who have converted to any faith other than those mentioned in the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order of 1950. Currently, only Dalits of Hindu, Buddhist, and Sikh faiths are entitled to a Scheduled Caste classification, unlike the Scheduled Tribe status, which does not have a religion criterion. The Commission was initially given a two-year deadline to finish its work and submit a report to the government. Since 2024, the Commission has been given multiple extensions, the last one in April this year, which set the latest deadline at June 10, 2026. Gazette records do not show any further extension granted to the Commission.

The Commission's study was meant to look at the demand for Scheduled Caste status for Dalit converts, the opposition to this demand and its impact on existing Scheduled Caste communities, and the levels and types of discrimination faced by Dalit communities after they convert to other faiths.

The Union Social Justice Ministry has made multiple submissions to the Supreme Court in these matters, arguing that the Scheduled Caste status should be denied to people who had converted to faiths like Islam and Christianity.

Modi tells States to harness AI, prepare for El Nino impact

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday asked the States to balance the opportunities of artificial intelligence with safeguards against emerging social challenges, such as cyberfraud and drug abuse, while warning of risks posed by El Nino conditions and calling for stronger water conservation measures.

Chairing the 11th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog, Mr. Modi noted that at a time when many major economies were facing uncertainty and economic challenges, India's growth story continued to inspire the world.

He emphasised the need to strengthen the nation's resolve towards self-reliance and highlighted the importance of adopting and implementing global best practices, particularly in the renewable energy sector.

Referring to India's recently concluded trade agreements with several countries, Mr. Modi asked the States to create opportunities for youth and MSMEs and equip stakeholders to effectively leverage benefits from these agreements.

Underscoring the importance of cooperative federalism, Mr. Modi stated that the Centre and States must work together to achieve the goal of a Viksit Bharat, according to an official statement.

He stressed that the vision of Viksit Bharat should become the collective resolve of every State, district, block and village. He highlighted the need for coordinated efforts to address emerging social challenges, such as drug abuse and cyberfraud.

Child assessments must be done in custody cases with 'minimum intrusion': SC

Rizmi Lia M.
CHENNAI

The Supreme Court on Thursday held that psychological assessments of children should be conducted only when necessary and with "minimum intrusion" into the child's life in custody disputes, particularly in cases where the child is an alleged victim of sexual abuse.

It says such psychological assessments must be held only when necessary.

The appeal was filed by the mother of a 10-year-old child against orders of the Bombay High Court appointing a panel of experts to assess the child and facilitate restoration of her relationship with her father. The father is alleged to have sexually abused the child when she was two years old.

A Division Bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and N.K. Singh observed that the case involved balancing the father's request to reconnect with his daughter and the need to protect the child, who has accused him of sexual abuse, from any process that could aggravate her trauma.

Referring to the objectives of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO Act), the court noted that the legislation proceeds on the foundational premise that a child who has allegedly suffered sexual abuse must not be exposed to processes capable of causing further emotional harm, humiliation or secondary victimisation.

Instead of immediately directing an assessment of the child, the Bench ordered the Family Court to first appoint a psychologist to assess the mental and psychological condition of both parents. The court-appointed psychologist will then interact with the psychologist currently treating the child and submit a report to the Family Court.

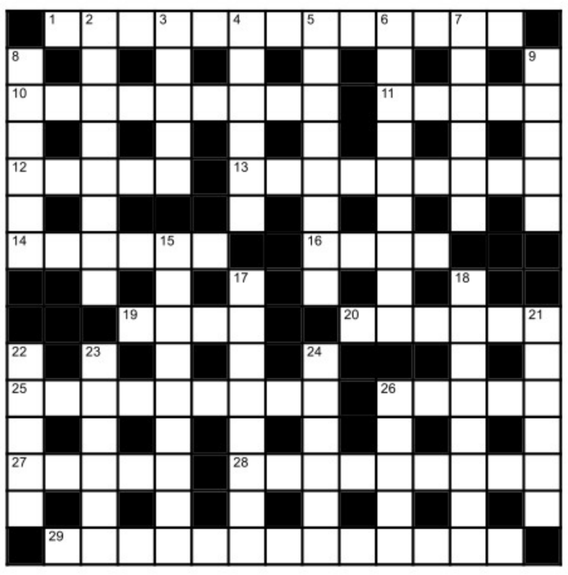
Based on these reports, the Family Court will determine whether any further psychological assessment of the child is necessary. If such an assessment is required, it must be conducted by a single independent child psychologist with minimal interaction so as not to disturb the child.

TH CROSSWORD + 14818

(set by Afterdark)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Understanding layers in microphone design without echos essentially (13)
10 A strategy to suppress rule in continent (9)
11 Captains of Australia, Rhodesia, England, New Zealand, Afghanistan in the ground (5)
12 Dodge is electric vehicle? Commercial enunciates at the beginning (5)
13 Irish band finishes early to welcome associate (9)
14 Start to drink noisily at a distance (3,3)
16 Say, David the English filmmaker is at bank (4)
19 Smile at crush almost (4)
20 Master's knowledge is beyond the peak of Ultar (6)
25 I have little time before and after theatre work that is crucial (9)
26 Broadcast on good man's step (5)
27 Next ration will include bonus (5)
28 Deport 27 dissenters in the beginning and fifteen regularly (9)
29 Say, yellow lorry (car) transporting opium stash (7,6)

Down

2 Old-fashioned girlfriend's behind forbidden drugs primarily (8)
3 Tomato pulp is unadulterated at Spain (5)
4 Draw in second test, Mark avoids duck (6)
5 Licence issued to arrest leader of rioting crowd (8)
6 Trisha redrew square in the second half with free program (9)
7 Traffic system at the circle's new, absent by end of Sunday (3-3)
8 Complaint on poor book (6)
9 In part, prelate reached following (5)
15 Gangster holstering gun, say with safety device (4,5)
17 England has a new Eastern European rival starting to manipulate (8)
18 Panchatantiram is under wraps? Sweet (8)
21 Ship passes over lake on course (6)
22 Head Office order extremely empty and rubbish (5)
23 Man caught by heartless officer who is a bully (6)
24 Poisoned primarily clueless doubter (6)
26 Ashley Cole, first and last to be sacked by confused Arsenal in a tangle (5)

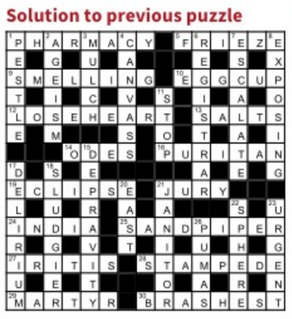
SUDOKU

					6	5		9
				2			3	4
6		3	4					
	3	4		8			9	
		8				3		
	9			1		4	5	
					1	2		5
3	6			9				
8		2	7					

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

No.SS6909 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	9	6	7	3	2	1	8	5
3	5	7	9	8	1	6	4	2
2	1	8	6	4	5	7	9	3
8	6	4	1	2	3	5	7	9
1	3	9	5	7	6	4	2	8
7	2	5	8	9	4	3	6	1
5	8	2	3	6	7	9	1	4
9	7	3	4	1	8	2	5	6
6	4	1	2	5	9	8	3	7

FAITH

Ruru and the snake

Sage Brighu's wife Puloma was kidnapped by a demon when she was pregnant. She gave birth to a son. The infant killed the demon. That child was named Chyavana. Chyavana married Sukanya, and they had a son called Pramati. Pramati's son Ruru became engaged to Pramadvara. One day, Pramadvara died due to snake bite. Indra told Ruru that she would come back to life, if Ruru gave half his own lifespan to the girl. Ruru gave half his lifespan to her, said Thenthirupperai Aravindalochanan in a discourse.

When Pramadvara was revived, Ruru married her. From then on, Ruru decided that whenever he saw a snake, he would kill it. Once when Ruru was bathing in the river, he saw a harmless water snake and was about to kill it, when the snake said, "Why do you want to kill me? I have not harmed you." Ruru narrated how his wife had once been bitten by a snake. The water snake said, "Death of a person comes because of his or her actions. Moreover, why should you kill all snakes, when it was only one snake that bit her?" Ruru agreed to spare the snake's life, but wanted to know what it had done in its previous birth to be a snake now. The snake said, "In my previous birth, I was a rishi called Sahasrapathi. I tied some darbha grass to a stick, to make it resemble a snake. I threw it in the path of sage Khagama, just to frighten him. He fainted when he saw the snake, but when he realised it was a prank, he cursed me. He said I would be born a snake, but because I had only used a stick to frighten him, I would be a non-venomous snake. He said that when I saw Ruru, the descendant of Chyavana, I would be released from my curse. Now I have seen you, and so my curse has ended."

INBRIEF

Rupee slumps 60 paise to close at 95.85 against dollar

The rupee plunged 60 paise to settle at 95.85 against the U.S. dollar on Thursday amid heightened tensions in West Asia and a stronger greenback. Heavy foreign capital outflows and weak sentiments at the domestic equity markets put further pressure on the local unit, according to forex traders. At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened at 95.55 and touched the intraday low of 95.85. It settled at the session's lowest level of 95.85 against the dollar. PTI

SatSure bags $2.6 mn grant to build AI-powered models

Space start-up SatSure Analytics secured a ₹246 million ($2.57 million) grant from the country's space regulator on Thursday, to develop AI models for Earth observation as part of a wider push towards building sovereign AI capabilities. SatSure said the grant will help support development of large Earth observation models using satellites and drone data tailored to India to improve accuracy over global models, which could often struggle with local conditions. REUTERS

8 PSBs add 13,223 employees in FY26; SBI largest recruiter

Eight of the 12 public sector banks added 13,223 employees in FY26, taking their combined workforce to over 6.28 lakh, with State Bank of India (SBI) accounting for the bulk of the hiring. Analysis of data compiled by PTI from banks' annual reports shows that the total employee strength of the eight public sector banks stood at 6,28,203 at the end of March 31, 2026, compared with 6,14,980 in FY25, marking an increase of 13,223 employees. PTI

Centre lifts excise duty on higher ethanol-blend petrol

Union government exempts E22, E25, E27, and E30 variants from central excise duty; clarifies that the latest reduction does not indicate anything on rolling out higher blends

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

Aiming to popularise the uptake of biofuels in the country, the Union government late on Wednesday removed central excise duty on petrol blended with higher quantum of ethanol. Following the move, petrol blended with ethanol at 22%, 25%, 27% and 30% would be exempted from central excise duties.

In a statement, the government clarified that the latest reduction did not indicate anything on rolling out higher blends.

"This is a preliminary prerequisite for eventually introducing higher blends, but doesn't convey anything about roll out of higher blends as of now as that will only be done after extensive testing and consultation," the government stated.

In the pipeline: The move is a preliminary prerequisite for eventually introducing higher blends, the government stated. ANI

The government clarified that the exemption specifically concerned the blending activity of ethanol with petrol, which is essentially a manufacturing activity. The objective is to avert the possibility of a dual levy.

"Petrol bears excise duty and ethanol bears GST at their respective stages. When the two are blended, the resulting product may attract excise duty once again on the full quantity," the Centre clarified.

"For ethanol blends of petrol up to 20%, excise duty on the blended petrol was exempted by the Ministry of Finance. The exemption ensures that the duties already paid are not charged a second time on the blend," it added.

The gazette notification comes days after India formally launched the E85 variant of petrol, that is 85% ethanol blended with 15% gasoline, on June 5.

Industry associations across the ethanol blending value chain have welcomed the move to remove excise levy.

C.K. Jain, President of the Grain Ethanol Manufacturers Association (GEMA) said that the move indicated a "strong signal of policy stability and long-term commitment".

"It is essential for attracting fresh investments across the ethanol value chain, including production capacity, logistics, storage, fuel retailing and flex-fuel mobility solutions," he said.

Welcoming the move, Bharati Balaji, Deputy Director General at the All-India Distillers Association (AIDA) added, "We urge the state governments to complement this measure with aligned tax structures so that the full benefit reaches both industry and consumers at the pump."

IT majors' shares dip as Claude's new model 'poses risk' to revenue

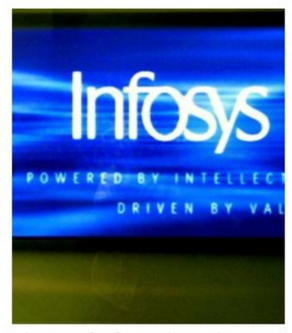
Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Nifty IT, the 10-stock index representing Indian IT companies, dipped 1.6% on Wednesday, a day after Anthropic opened Fable 5, a restricted version of Claude Mythos 5, to the public. Fable 5 is expected to put the revenue of IT majors at risk, according to industry experts.

While Infosys dipped over 2.5%, Persistent Systems dipped 0.87%, closing at ₹1,114.6 and ₹4,874.00 per share respectively.

HCL Tech shaved 1.6% off its previous day's price and Oracle Financial Services Software Ltd. became cheaper by 1.9%. Revenues of Indian IT services companies are expected to see a deflation of 3-5%, said Sumit Pokharna, Senior VP, Fundamental Research, Kotak Securities.

Anthropic, the American AI company that makes Claude, has been releasing new models with increasing efficiency, according to information on its website.



Shares of Infosys dipped over 2.5% on the Nifty IT index.

"It is state-of-the-art on nearly all tested benchmarks of AI capability, showing exceptional performance in software engineering, knowledge work, vision, scientific research, and many other areas. The longer and more complex the task, the larger Fable 5's lead over our other models," Anthropic said in a post on its website.

Further, Anthropic plans to move its finance model from subscription-based to usage based.

TCS to train 50,000 staff with Claude powered by Anthropic

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Tata Consultancy Services Ltd (TCS) has announced a global strategic partnership with Anthropic, the frontier AI company behind Claude, to help customers scale enterprise AI adoption.

TCS said it will setup a dedicated Business Unit focused on delivering strong customer value propositions, joint industry solutions and deep AI expertise on the Claude family of models through early access to Claude models.

TCS will equip 50,000 associates across engineering, finance, legal, marketing, and sales with Claude through enterprise-wide licensing.

By deploying Claude internally, TCS will gain firsthand experience to transform its own operations. In regulated industries, most AI initiatives stall at the pilot stage, where the requirements for accuracy, auditability and oversight are far more stringent, and the consequences of error significantly higher. This partnership is designed to overcome those barriers, TCS said in a statement.

K. Krithivasan, CEO and MD, TCS, said, "This partnership reflects TCS' broader strategy to help clients become perpetually adaptive enterprises by turning frontier AI into transformation at enterprise scale."

Dario Amodei, co-founder and CEO, Anthropic, said, "This partnership deepens our commitment to India, our second-largest market, with TCS bringing Claude to enterprises and professionals across the region and globally, including 50,000 of its employees." "By combining Anthropic's capabilities with Tata Group's scale, trusted relationships, and nation-building commitment, we will accelerate enterprise reinvention and equip India's youth with the skills to lead in the AI era," said Tata Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekaran.

Opendoor shuts India office, lays off 250 staff, embraces AI

Press Trust of India
WASHINGTON

San Francisco-based real estate technology firm Opendoor started to shut down India operations, laying off all 250 staff as it relocates operational roles closer to the U.S.

Opendoor started its operations in India in 2022 with offices in Chennai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru.

"Today we began to say goodbye to our colleagues in India as we wind down our India operations. Our customers are in America, and that's where our operational work belongs," Opendoor CEO Kaz Nejatian said in a post on X.

The internal note said since the launch of Opendoor 2.0 a few months ago, the company had unified systems and built small AI-native customer-facing teams across the U.S.

"This affects all of our colleagues in India who have done meaningful work for Opendoor. I am grateful for their dedication and this decision is not a reflection of the quality of their work," the note by Mr. Nejatian said.

Affected employees will receive severance pay, outplacement services and transition support while a small group will remain temporarily to complete the migration of key workstreams.

Founded in 2014, Opendoor had an "iBuying" model, using technology and data analytics to make instant cash offers to homeowners, buy homes directly and then resell them. The firm also offers mortgage and home-selling services via a digital platform.

Indian textile sector witnessing revival of investments

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

For the textile and clothing industry, the last quarter of FY26 and the first quarter of the current financial year have seen growth in demand, triggering investments, according to industry officials.

"After 2022, the industry saw demand picking up across the textile value chain from January to mid-May. There is a slowdown in demand now after withdrawal of the import duty on cotton. We hope the situation will stabilise in a month or so," said K. Selvaraju, secretary general, the Southern India Mills Association.

"All the good performers are investing now, expanding capacities. Investments are not decided based on the performance of two or three months. For larger industries, the investments were planned at least seven or eight months before. They are looking at long-term growth," added Chandrima Chatterjee, Secretary General, Confederation of Indian Textile Industry.

Textile mills are said to be investing in modernisation and expansion.

Higher yarn exports

Yarn exports from October 2025 to March 2026 were higher compared with the same period the previous year in quantity. Export of fabrics picked up and then saw a slow down. Similarly, yarn price spike did have an impact on garments and made-ups for a few weeks. Now, fall in cotton prices again led to demand drop, Mr. Selvaraju said.

"When the market revives, it takes about three months for the entire supply chain to benefit. Cotton imports have crossed 40 lakh bales between October 2025 and May 2026. Another 15-20 lakh bales are expected to come in by the end of September. Cotton prices crossed ₹75,000 a candy and are dropping now. This has led to demand slowdown. Everyone is waiting to see how much the prices will fall. The situation will be clear in the next few weeks," added Mr. Selvaraju.

Meanwhile, textile mills are said to be investing in both modernisation and expansion projects though the exact investment data is not available.

More automation

Some of the mills are investing to make value added yarns and some others modernising adopting more automation, said industry sources.

Implementation of the Free Trade Agreement with the U.K. is expected to bring in more orders for garments and made-ups. Another $10 billion increase in exports will support the entire textile value chain. However, the West Asia war and uncertainties in the U.S. tariff are of concern, sources said.

RIL, Vedanta, Adani said to join hands to cut China rare earth reliance

Reuters
NEW DELHI

Indian industrial groups-Reliance, Vedanta and Adani have shown interest in developing facilities to process Andhra Pradesh state's significant reserves of increasingly important rare-earth minerals, according to two sources with knowledge of the matter.

With New Delhi seeking to cut India's dependence on China for rare earths, the three companies are among about 10 who have expressed interest in setting up rare earth facilities in the southern state, one of the sources said.

The sources declined to be identified as they were not authorised to speak to the media. Andhra Pradesh holds 211 million metric tonne of beach sand mineral resources, including rare earths, across 16 identified coastal deposits, as per a draft document.

India has 482.6 million tonne of rare earth ore resources, according to the Geological Survey of India.

The interest comes as New Delhi steps up efforts to build domestic rare earth mining, processing and magnet manufacturing capacity, while Andhra Pradesh aims to attract ₹50,000 crore ($5.2 billion) in rare earth and titanium investments over the next decade. The plans were set out in a draft government document.

The Andhra Pradesh government, Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL), Vedanta Ltd. and Adani Enterprises Ltd. did not respond to *Reuters* emails seeking comments.

THE HINDU
CARE COMMUNITY CONVERSATION
THE HINDU GROUP
If they look
9
10
or
8...
dial
1098.
Age is just a number.
But when 4.35 million children under the age of 14 are forced to work, some numbers matter more than others.
Remember this one. One day you may need to call it.
World Day Against Child Labour
Source: Child Rights and You

WASHINGTON

Trump nominates prosecutor Jay Clayton as new U.S. intel chief

AP

U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday named prosecutor Jay Clayton as his new intelligence chief, after a backlash from Republicans over his bid to install an inexperienced ally in the post. Mr. Trump's naming of Bill Pulte as acting Director of National Intelligence earlier this month had sparked an uproar. AFP

BANGKOK

Thailand sentences Uyghur men to death over 2015 Bangkok bombing

AFP

A court in Thailand on Thursday convicted and sentenced to death two members of China's Muslim Uyghur minority over a 2015 bombing at a Bangkok landmark that killed 20 people and injured more than 120. Yusufu Mieraili and Bilal Mohammad were arrested shortly after the August 17, 2015 bombing of the Erawan shrine. AP

SYDNEY

Security pact with China to remain undisclosed: Solomon Islands govt.

REUTERS

The contents of a secretive security pact between China and the Solomon Islands will remain undisclosed due to legal restrictions, the Pacific nation's new government said on Thursday. The deal struck in 2022 rattled Washington and Canberra because of concern it opened the door to a permanent Chinese military presence. AFP

BOGOTA

In a historic move, Colombia vows to ban female genital mutilation

AFP

Colombia's Senate approved a law on Wednesday to ban female genital mutilation (FGM), a practice that persists in some of the country's Indigenous communities, after two years of debate. If approved by leftist President Gustavo Petro, Colombia will become the first country in Latin America to pass such legislation. AFP

Twenty-two countries tell Iran to stop attacking people 'on our soil'

The countries accuse Iran's security services of using international and local criminal gangs to plot lethal actions against dissidents, journalists and communities abroad; such attacks undermine the national sovereignty, says a joint statement

Agence France-Presse
SYDNEY

Security services: Members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) attend a rally in Tehran, Iran. REUTERS

Twenty-two countries, including the United States and European nations, jointly warned Iran on Thursday to stop attacking people "on our soil".

Iran's security services were condemned for their "deplorable" use of international and local criminal gangs for plots in Europe, North America, and Australia.

"Attempts to kill, kidnap, harass, intimidate, or otherwise attack people on our soil, undermines national sovereignty and international norms. These actions must stop immediately," the countries said in a joint statement.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' intelligence services and its foreign operations branch, the Quds Force, had engaged in "lethal plotting and malign actions" against Iranian dissidents, journalists and Jewish and Israeli communities and interests, they said. "We stand united in our determination to protect our countries and our people against these threats. The Islamic Republic of Iran must halt these actions."

The countries also accused Iran of being behind a campaign of attacks across Europe targeting Jewish communities, Iranian journalists and U.S. journalists that were claimed by Iran-linked group Harakat Ashab al-Yamin al-Islamiya (HAYI).

The group, whose name means The Islamic Movement of the People of the Right Hand, has claimed responsibility for attacks targeting Jewish communities in the United Kingdom, Belgium and the Netherlands.

In November, Australia designated the Revolutionary Guards as a state sponsor of terrorism, describing its alleged attacks in Australia as "unprecedented and dangerous acts of aggression".

The statement was issued by Albania, Australia, Belgium, Britain, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and the United States.

U.K. Defence Secretary resigns over low funding

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

John Healey

U.K. Defence Secretary John Healey resigned on Thursday citing inadequate defence spending by the Keir Starmer-led Labour government. The resignation further weakens Mr. Starmer, who has been beleaguered by internecine battles and will potentially have to face a leadership contest in the coming months.

New threats faced by the U.K. required further investment through the Defence Investment Plan (DIP), Mr. Healey said. This had been confirmed by the Labour government. Yet, since this funding assessment was made in January, Mr. Starmer was "unable, and the Treasury has been unwilling" to commit the required resources needed, said Mr. Healey in his resignation letter. The U.K.'s defence challenges had in fact grown since January, Mr. Healey said, with the U.K. "leading the multinational Strait of Hormuz military mission", High North security and the U.K. leading NATO's Arctic Sentry mission. Part of Mr. Healey's criticism was that the government was not ramping up defence spending fast enough to meet its committed expenditure on defence. Under pressure from U.S. President Donald Trump, the U.K. had agreed to increase defence expenditure, spending 3% of GDP by 2030 and 3.5% by 2035.

This is the latest in a series of resignations from the government in weeks. Health Secretary Wes Streeting had resigned in May and indicated that he would run in any contest for No. 10 Downing Street.

Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham, seen as the strongest contender to Mr. Starmer, is contesting a byelection in Makerfield, on June 18. A win there would bring him to Westminster, a necessary step if he wishes to challenge the PM.

Strike cuts power to Zaporizhzhia plant: IAEA

Agence France-Presse
VIENNA

An overnight strike has cut off external electricity supply to the Ukraine's Russian-held Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, Europe's largest, the UN nuclear watchdog said on Thursday.

No release of radioactivity was detected and radiation levels remained normal, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said in a statement.

The plant "is currently relying on emergency diesel generators to power the cooling of its six shut-down reactors and maintain other essential nuclear safety functions," it said.

'India likely to be invited to join Hormuz security initiative'

Saurabh Trivedi
Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Discussions between Modi and Macron are expected to cover a wide range of issues: diplomatic sources

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's bilateral talks with French President Emmanuel Macron at the G7 Summit, France has proposed a broader maritime security partnership with India, including participation in a multinational initiative aimed at ensuring freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz.

French diplomatic sources said here on Thursday discussions between the two leaders are expected to cover a wide range of issues, including defence cooperation, maritime security, military hardware and developments in West Asia.

According to the sources, France is working with a group of partner nations to ensure maritime security and freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz amid rising regional tensions.

India is expected to be among the countries invited to join the initiative. The sources also revealed that leaders from India, the United States, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE are expected to participate in a West Asia-focused meeting on the margins of the G7 Summit.

Briefing the media about Prime Mr. Modi's upcoming travel plans for France and Slovakia, Secretary (West) Sibi George of the Ministry of External Affairs said when Mr. Modi and Mr. Macron meet, "All issues of interest – global issues – including the developments in West Asia will be discussed."

Hinting at the French proposal on working with a group of partner countries for the Strait of Hormuz, he said "new announcements being made by various sides" will be discussed as well.

Mr. George further said that defence-related announcements will be made during Mr. Modi's visit to Slovakia during June 14-16.

Police blast water cannons at Belfast protesters as unrest flares after stabbing

Associated Press
BELFAST

Violent streets: Riot police attempt to clear demonstrators near Newtownabbey in Belfast, Northern Ireland on Wednesday. AP

Police blasted water cannons on Wednesday at protesters in Northern Ireland who set small fires and hurled bricks, rocks and bottles at them during a second night of violence over a brutal stabbing on a Belfast street.

Demonstrators wearing masks tore bricks from the walls outside homes and smashed pavements with sledgehammers to toss at riot police. In one place, the unruly crowd used sections of a dismantled picket fence to take cover on the street.

The clashes with police came several hours after a 30-year-old man from Sudan appeared in a Belfast court charged with attempted murder in a stabbing attack that left a man seriously injured and triggered anti-immigrant violence.

Hadi Alodid, 30, was ordered held in jail after appearing by video in Belfast Magistrates' Court, where a detective said he blinded Stephen Ogilvie in the left eye during the knife attack. He was also charged with possessing a knife and threatening to kill a radiographer while being treated for a hand injury after the assault.

When police arrived at the crime scene, they found Alodid on the man, armed with a kitchen knife, the detective said. Alodid later told hospital staff: "I've killed someone, I don't know if they are dead," and said, "I will kill you."

He refused legal representation through an Arabic interpreter and did not enter a plea.

Police were prepared for more violence after masked men on Tuesday set fire to several homes they believed to house immigrants, burned trash bins, torched a Belfast bus and pelted police with objects.

TOURISM CORPORATION OF GUJARAT LIMITED (TCGL)
(A Government of Gujarat undertaking)
Nigam Bhavan, 1st floor, Sector-16
Gandhinagar-382016

TENDER NOTICE

Tender is invited by Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd. (TCGL), for the appointment of the Agency for **"Selection of Agencies for providing Cleaning and Sanitation Services across various tourist locations in Gujarat".** Interested bidders may download the tender document on the website: **https://tender.nprocure.com** available from 12/06/2026. Last date for online submission will be: 02/07/2026 up to 6.00 pm.and Technical Bid (physical only) is 04/07/2026 up to 3:00 pm. Tender can also be downloaded from website: https://tender.nprocure.com/ and https://www.gujarattourism.com from 12/06/2026 onwards.

MD-TCGL reserves the right to reject or accept any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Managing Director

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಹೊಸಪೇಟೆ.

No:SE7735/3/CMC HOSPETE/TENDER/2026-27
Dated: 11.06.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT) E-PROCUREMENT

Tenders are invited for the work mentioned below as per KTPP act 2000 in two cover system are invited from the Contractors/Firms registered in KPWD as mentioned below. in e-procurement the contractors / firms will have to upload all information, documents and rates etc., www.eproc.karnataka.govt.inany other information required can be obtained from the office of the CMC Hosapete during the working hours.Tender Last Date:16-06-2026 TIME5.00 PMOpening for Technical Bid will be on Date:17-06-2026 TIME5.30 PMOPENING PLACE OF TENDER:CMC HOSAPETE.TENDER DETAILS:**Operation and Maintenance of water Supply Distribution System of CMC Hosapete(DMA/2026-27/SE7735/CALL-3)** Estimated cost(in lakhs):**Rs 56.27**

Sd/- AssistantExecutive Engineer, CMC Hosapete Sd/- Municipal Commissioner CMC Hosapete.

DIPR/Vijayanagar/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/133

Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation
MANGALORE DIVISION: MANGALORE

No.KST/MNG/TR/COM/731/2026-27 **Dt:10.06.2026**

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION NO-01/2026-27
(Through e-Procurement only)

Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation, Mangaluru Division, invites e-Tender for the selection of Licensee for commercial stalls, Two Wheeler/Car parking, Refreshment Room(Veg), Office Use, Luggage/Clock Room at Bus Stations of Mangalore, Kundapura, & Dr.V.S.Acharya Bannanje Udupi, Byndoor Bus Stations & Divisional Work Shop for a period of 3/5/10 years (annual ascalation of 10% on monthly licence fee) through e-procurement.

E-Tender documents can be downloaded from e-procurement website https:/kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or before **30-06-2026 at 16.00Hrs.** Opening of E-Tender Technical/Financial Bid on dt:**03.07.2026 at 10:30 hrs.**

For more details visit Divisional Office, K.S.R.T.C Mangaluru Division- 575004 during office hours. : Contact Details: Divisional Traffic Officer-7760990702, Assistant Traffic Manager -7760990711

Sd/-
Senior Divisional Controller
KSRTC:Mangaluru Division

DIPR/CP/1121/Zen/2026-27

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking & An ISO 27001-2022 Certified Company)

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

The APTRANSCO invites bids online for Spec No. **PMM31-e-46/2026. Nature of Work**: Supply of various 400kV C&R Panels with BCUs under System Improvement & RMI works of APTRANSCO. Date & Time of availability of Tenders: **12.06.2026 at 05:00 PM.** Web: **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in.** **Sd/-**
R.O.No.GMCC/APTRANSCO/81/26-27 **CHIEF ENGINEER/TRANSMISSION**

ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్ కేంద్రీయ విశ్వవిద్యాలయం ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్ కేంద్రీయ విశ్వవిద్యాలయం
CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF ANDHRA PRADESH
(Established by an act of Parliament in 2019)

Registration opens for Post Graduate (PG) Programmes
ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27

Central University of Andhra Pradesh, Ananthapuramu invites online Applications for registration in the prescribed format using the link given below, from the candidates who have appeared in CUET (PG) 2026 examination conducted by NTA for the following programmes. **Enroll Now**

PROGRAMMES OFFERED BY CUAP	
UG Programmes (3 & 4 Year)	B.Sc. (Hons) Economics; B.Sc. (Hons) Psychology; B.A. (Hons) Political Science; B.Sc. (Hons) Computer Science & Artificial Intelligence; B. Tech in Computer Science and Engineering; B.A. (Hons) English; B.Sc. in Retail Management and Information Technology (RMIT); Bachelor of Commerce (Hons); BBA.
PG Programmes (2 Year)	M.Sc. Economics; M.Sc. Economics and Data Analytics; M.Sc. Applied Psychology; M.A. Political Science; M.A. Governance and Public Policy; M.Sc. Geography and Geoinformatics; M.Sc. Artificial Intelligence and Data Science; M.Sc. Mathematics and Computing; M.Sc. Molecular Biology; M.Sc. Computational Social Science; M.Sc. Space Science and Technology; MCA; M.Sc. Genomic Science; M.Sc. Chemistry; M.A. English; M.A. Telugu;M. Com.;MBA.
Diploma / PG Diploma (Online) (1 Year)	Computational Social Science; Geo-Spatial Informatics; Bioinformatics & Data Science; Peace & Conflict Studies; Digital Marketing; Computerized Accounting (Tally ERP) with GST Filing; Cyber Security; Disaster Management; Green Energy Technology & Management; Business Analytics & Econometrics; Mathematical Foundations for Machine Learning & Data Science; English Language Teaching; Semi- Conductor Technology and Chip Design; Quantum Computing & Machine Learning; Design Thinking; 3D Printing; Electric Vehicles (EV); Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AI&ML).

IMPORTANT DETAILS

Link	
PG	For CUET candidates: https://cuapcuet.samarth.edu.in/pg For Non-CUET candidates:https://forms.gle/8S5p11TTvmpyXuNX6 Last Date for Registration: 26.06.2026
UG / Diploma / PG Diploma :	Will notify shortly on the university website: www.cuap.ac.in

For More information:
Ph: 9491490032 Web.:https://cuap.ac.in/ Email:officeofadmissions@cuap.ac.in

Sd/- Registrar

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer
Shivaji Nagar Division, Thimmaiah Road, Queens Road, Bengaluru.

No: EE/SJN/KPPP/14/2026-27 Date: 11.06.2026

Invitation for Short Term Tender
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPPP only)
website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

The Executive Engineer (Shivaji Nagar Division), BCCC, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Government Organisations for the construction of work detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Comprehensive Development of Sri Someshwara Temple approach Roads & Drains and Surrounding area in Ward No.121, (New Ward No.08),Ulsoor. **Amount put to Tender (₹ in Lakhs): Rs 247.48, EMD in ₹) : 24,75,000/-.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Pre bid meeting will be held on **17.06.2026 at 3:00 p.m. (2)** Last Date for uploading the Filled Tender documents is on **19.06.2026 up to 4:00 p.m. (3)** Date of Technical bid opening of Tenders is on **20.06.2026 by 4:30 p.m. (4)** Date of Financial bid opening of tenders is after Technical bids approved.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Shivaji Nagar Division, BCCC.

TOKEN OF APPRECIATION

New York temporarily renames streets after Pele and Henry

FILE PHOTO

New York has honoured two footballing greats by temporarily renaming streets after Pele and Thierry Henry. Crowd gathered at West 50th Street and 6th Avenue in Manhattan to mark the unveiling of "Thierry Henry Way" by city officials. The intersection of Shea Road and Meridian Road was renamed after Pele.

SETBACK

Morocco forced to make two changes to its WC contingent

GETTY IMAGES

Morocco has been hit by the loss of two starters to injury, with Nayef Aguerd and Abde Ezzalzouli, *in pic.*, replaced in its World Cup squad. Defender Marwane Saadane and striker Amine Sbai have been brought in. Morocco opens its Group C campaign against five-time champion Brazil at the New York New Jersey Stadium on Saturday.

ANXIOUS WAIT

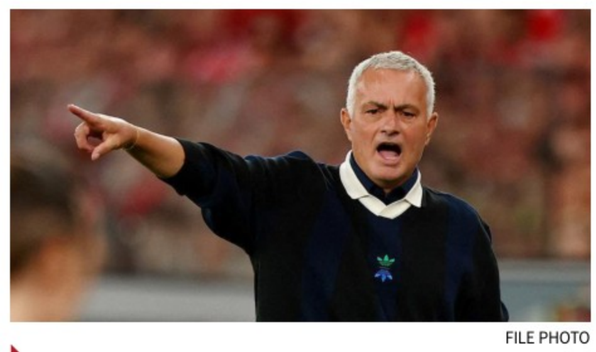
Goalkeeper Verbruggen a doubt for the Dutch team's first fixture

GETTY IMAGES

Netherlands goalkeeper Bart Verbruggen missed training on Wednesday, two days after hurting his hip in a collision during a warm-up match with Uzbekistan. It left his status in question for the team's World Cup opener against Japan. Verbruggen is the first-choice custodian for head coach Ronald Koeman.

SECOND SPELL

Real Madrid names Mourinho as coach on a three-year deal



FILE PHOTO

Real Madrid named Jose Mourinho as its new head coach on a three-year deal until June 30, 2029, the 15-time European champion announced on Thursday. Mourinho will return to the club on July 13 to begin his second spell with Real for the start of pre-season training. His first stint in Madrid was from 2010-13.

Of old warhorses, their longevity and last dance

While Messi, Ronaldo and Ochoa are appearing in their record-equalling sixth tournament, Modric and Neuer are going strong in their 40s; they are, however, set to bow out soon

FIFA WORLD CUP

S. Shrivathsan

Golden oldies: Messi, Ronaldo, Modric, Neuer, and Ochoa are among those who will probably be playing their last World Cup. GETTY IMAGES, AP, REUTERS & AFP

A look at age-verification documents would make one wonder how these warhorses' batteries still have enough charge for the FIFA World Cup.

It appears as though they have been competing at football's glitziest spectacle since time immemorial. The ageless fighters, however, are likely to bid adieu to the pinnacle of the global game in the ongoing edition. Here are five such players who are set for their last dance:

Lionel Messi (38 years): The Argentine talisman, who will turn 39 during the World Cup, is no longer shouldering the burden of attaining ultimate success, having achieved crowning glory in Qatar 2022.

There was a shadow of doubt whether he would make it to the record-equalling sixth tournament, but the richly gifted forward has opted to take the toughest football examination once again. Messi is steadily building up to full fitness after being sidelined with a hamstring injury, which he suffered when he was on duty for Inter Miami. His objective? Adding a feather to an already heavily decorated cap with a successful title defence.

Cristiano Ronaldo (41): The Portuguese legend would just not bow out of the international arena without straining every sinew to accomplish the mission. After multiple unsuccessful pursuits that left him heartbroken, Ronaldo, the only man to score in five iterations, will have another bite at the cherry.

The once-in-a-generation attacker has a genuine chance of hoisting the shimmering trophy, for his team has several game-changers who can alter the script in a jiffy.

On an individual note, Ronaldo, cognisant of his well-below-par returns in knockout fixtures, will be determined to exert more influence in such clashes. If he carries Portugal to the promised land, he will almost certainly be 'sainted' back home.

Luka Modric (40): The Croatian may be running the last mile in his illustrious career, but the midfield master is still a feared opponent in his 'area' of strength.

That he plied his trade in one of Europe's top-five leagues – for AC Milan in Serie A – last season despite being in the 40s shows his longevity with no compromise in quality.

After stumbling in the final hurdle in 2018 and coming third four years later, Modric will hope to turn those near-misses into a perfect finish. Croatia will have to come out in full force if it is to join the World Cup-winning community.

Manuel Neuer (40): The German custodian's international return was something that not many anticipated, but head coach Julian Nagelsmann has pinned his hopes on the shotstopper.

Neuer, donning the national colours for the first time since the European Championship in 2024, will be the No. 1 choice between the sticks provided he is in the best shape.

The goalkeeper's volume of years in the sport and experience of tasting success at this level (in 2014) were too good to ignore for Nagelsmann, who is two years younger to Neuer. "He does not need to settle in at this stage. He can handle pressure situations," the chief coach said of the veteran.

Guillermo Ochoa (40): A Mexican World Cup squad without Ochoa in the mix will look incomplete, considering that he was a constant presence under the crossbar in the previous three editions.

The goalkeeper, chosen to represent the North American outfit in the tournament proper for the record-levelling sixth time, has revelled in performing at the quadrennial event.

But Ochoa has hardly garnered game time in recent years and may find himself on the bench again. He, however, is prepared to give head coach Javier Aguirre a 'happy' selection problem.

Star-studded line-up on the touchline

Ashwin Achal

Master tacticians: Deschamps, Ancelotti, Bielsa, Scaloni and Pochettino. AFP & REUTERS

There will be a star-studded line-up in the technical area of the 2026 FIFA World Cup as a host of popular managers will wield their magic.

While Didier Deschamps and Lionel Scaloni are seasoned national team coaches, others like Carlo Ancelotti and Mauricio Pochettino will hope to translate club success to the international arena.

Didier Deschamps (France):

Only one of three men, alongside Franz Beckenbauer and Mario Zagallo, to have won the FIFA World Cup as both player and manager, Didier Deschamps brings stability and pedigree to France.

Since taking charge of a fractured squad from Laurent Blanc in 2012, Deschamps has built one of international football's most consistent teams.

Under him, France won the 2018 World Cup, lifted the 2021 Nations League and finished runner-up at the 2022 World Cup.

Heading into the final tournament of his long reign, Deschamps will be eager to add another major trophy and sign off on a high.

Carlo Ancelotti (Brazil):

Having last won the World Cup back in 2002, Brazil has gone over two decades without the big prize.

The powerhouse needed a big personality to reclaim lost glory, and who better for the job than Carlo Ancelotti.

A five-time UEFA Champions League winner, and the only manager to capture league titles in Europe's top five leagues, Ancelotti arrived with unmatched credentials.

In his first World Cup as a full-time international coach, the Italian – an expert man-manager – carries Brazil's hopes of ending a prolonged wait for global supremacy.

Marcelo Bielsa (Uruguay):

Known to extract the very best out of players through rigorous fitness conditioning and meticulous planning, Bielsa has his task cut out.

Bielsa's high press, direct football will be tested as Uruguay is without two star strikers – Luis Suarez (dropped) and Edinson Cavani (retired). Bielsa depends heavily on Real Madrid midfielder Federico Valverde and Al Hilal striker Darwin Nunez to buy into his system.

Bielsa enters the mega event after a roller coaster three-year tenure, wherein Uruguay defeated giants Brazil and Argentina en route to a third-place finish at the 2024 Copa America, before going on a poor run, which included a 1-5 defeat to the USA last year.

Lionel Scaloni (Argentina):

When Lionel Scaloni was appointed Argentina manager in 2018, many questioned his credentials.

Having served as an assistant during Argentina's disappointing 2018 World Cup campaign, he was viewed as an unlikely choice to lead one of football's giants.

Eight years later, Scaloni has silenced every critic. Calm and understated on the touchline, he guided Argentina to the 2021 Copa America, the 2022 World Cup and the 2024 Copa America titles.

His biggest challenge at the 2026 tournament will be balancing sentiment with pragmatism as the team enters a new era.

While Lionel Messi remains Argentina's iconic figure, Scaloni must ensure the supporting cast is ready to carry the load.

Mauricio Pochettino (United States):

Mauricio Pochettino arrives at the World Cup carrying the expectations of a nation eager for a breakthrough on home soil.

The Argentine took charge of a United States side that has shown promise but has yet to establish itself among football's elite.

After earning acclaim during his spell at Tottenham Hotspur, Pochettino embarked on his first international assignment with a reputation for developing young talent and building cohesive teams.

Results have been mixed against top opposition, and scrutiny has intensified. With the United States serving as a co-host, reaching the knockout stage will be considered the minimum requirement for success.

Brotherhood and shared memories

Sankar Narayanan E.H.

Sibling rivalry: Desire and Guela will play for different nations. AFP

FIFA World Cups are as much about shared memory as they are about football.

They are, at the same time, grand and intimate – a collective realisation that we are about to turn the page to a brand-new chapter in our global family album.

While billions build memories watching the action unfold, a select few will craft theirs directly on the pitch. The ultimate intersection of football and family belongs to seven sets of brothers playing in the 2026 showpiece. While some households have the happy headache of splitting their allegiances as the siblings represent different badges, others have a straightforward and aligned legacy waiting to be forged under one flag.

Here are the brothers taking the field in the ongoing iteration of the World Cup:

Nico Williams (Spain) and Inaki Williams (Ghana): Though both ply their trade for Athletic Bilbao in LaLiga, the 23-year-old Nico decided to represent Spain, whereas the 31-year-old Inaki went with the country of his parents' birth: Ghana. The Williams family must have got a hang of divided loyalties, for this is Nico and Inaki's second rodeo at the quadrennial event.

Desire Doue (France) and Guela Doue (Ivory Coast): The latest battle between the Doue siblings saw Guela claim the bragging rights by scoring the equaliser against France. Although his younger brother, the 21-year-old Paris Saint-Germain playmaker, was an unused substitute, Desire set aside France's 1-2 loss to share a warm embrace with Guela – a picture of brotherly love after the friendly encounter.

Lucas Hernandez and Theo Hernandez (France): The presence of these Marseille-born brothers makes the French defence whole. While 28-year-old Theo is with Al-Hilal in Saudi Arabia, the elder sibling plays his club football closer to home with PSG. Their family agenda will be banishing the ghosts of finishing runner-up in Qatar by going the distance in the Americas.

Harry Souttar (Australia) and John Souttar (Scotland): Leicester City's Harry and Rangers FC's John, both defenders by profession, punched their tickets through different nations. While 27-year-old Harry opted to represent the country of his mother's birth, his 29-year-old brother stayed true to his Scottish roots.

Juninho Bacuna and Leandro Bacuna (Curacao): The Bacuna brothers, both born in the Dutch town of Groningen, will be navigating football's biggest tournament representing the smallest nation to ever qualify for the World Cup. The 34-year-old Leandro has racked up 70 caps in over 10 years for Curacao, with 28-year-old Juninho, a midfielder, amassing 49 senior international appearances.

Deroy Duarte and Laros Duarte (Cape Verde): Born in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, Deroy and Laros will be the toast of Cape Verde when the nation makes its debut. Tasked with anchoring the midfield, Deroy, the younger of the two, and Laros likely perfected their partnership during the impromptu strategy sessions at the family dining table.

Brian Brobbey (Netherlands) and Derrick Luckassen (Ghana): There will be no half-measures when these half-brothers walk out to represent the Oranje and the Black Stars, respectively. While Sunderland's Brobbey earns his stripes as a striker, 30-year-old Luckassen provides defensive steel for Ghana.

Only one of Quinten Timber and Jurrien Timber will be turning out for the Netherlands as the identical twins got separated when Jurrien was ruled out due to an injury. The onus now falls on Quinten to create everlasting memories playing mesmerising football for his country and family.

INBRIEF

Bangladesh wins maiden ODI series against Australia

Towhid Hridoy hit an unbeaten 40 as Bangladesh won the second One-Day International by five wickets in Dhaka on Thursday to seal its first-ever series win over Australia in the 50-over format.

Chasing a DLS revised target of 192 in 41 overs in a rain-hit match, Bangladesh eased home with 36 balls to spare to take an unassailable 2-0 lead.

Australia posted 187 for eight in 42 overs with its innings cut short and ended by rain after Marnus Labuschagne and Xavier Bartlett rescued the visitor from 0-3.

Opening bowlers Mustafizur Rahman and Taskin Ahmed took three wickets each. Bangladesh has now won its last five home ODI series, following triumphs over Sri Lanka, West Indies, Pakistan and New Zealand.

The scores: Australia 187/8 in 42 overs (Marnus Labuschagne 55 n.o., Xavier Bartlett 52, Taskin Ahmed 3/33, Mustafizur Rahman 3/27) lost to Bangladesh 195/5 in 35 overs (Soumya Sarkar 42, Najmul Hossain Shanto 42, Towhid Hridoy 40 n.o.).
Target: 192 in 41 overs; Bangladesh won by DLS method.
Toss: Australia; **PoM:** Mustafizur.

2027 ODI World Cup from Oct. 4 to Nov. 21: report

The 2027 ICC ODI World Cup is provisionally scheduled to be held from October 4 to November 21, across South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Namibia, according to *ESPNcricinfo*. The dates were agreed upon during the ICC board meeting in Ahmedabad in May, with final confirmation expected at the ICC Annual General Meeting in Edinburgh in July. As per the report, South Africa is likely to host the majority of matches, with at least 41 out of 54 games taking place across eight venues. Zimbabwe is expected to stage between eight and 10 games across three venues, including Victoria Falls, Harare Sports Club, and Queens in Bulawayo. Namibia will host three fixtures.

Yashbardhan to lead India under-19 in Sri Lanka

Yashbardhan Singh Chauhan was named skipper of the India men's u-19 squads for the tour of Sri Lanka in July.

The squads: One-dayers: Yashbardhan Singh Chauhan (Capt.), Lakshya Raichandani (Vice-capt.), Sagar Virk, V.K. Vineeth, Arjun Rajput, Kushagra Ojha, Rajat Baghel (wk), Anvay Dravid (wk), Anmoljeet Singh, Vutkuri Yashveer Goud, Rohit Anil Yadav, V. Shavin, Kavya Paresh Patel, Mohit Ulva, and Ishan Sood.
The dates: July 4, 6 and 9, all at Hambantota.
Multi-day: Yashbardhan Singh Chauhan (Capt.), Lakshya Raichandani (Vice-capt.), Sagar Virk, Kush Patel, Manal Chauhan, Kushagra Ojha, Manav Krishna (wk), Aryan Sandesh Sakpal (wk), J. Hemchudeshan, B.K. Kishore, Rohit Anil Yadav, Kavya Paresh Patel, Priyanshu Singh, Pranav Raghavendra, and Venkata Chigurupati.
The schedule: July 13 to 16, Galle; July 20 to 23, Colombo.

Bhavika to helm India u-19 women against Sri Lanka

Bhavika Ahire will lead the India women's under-19 squads in the home series against Sri Lanka. It will figure in three T20s and three one-dayers.

The squads: T20s: Bhavika Ahire (Capt. & wk), Mahak Narwase (Vice-capt.), Ira Jadhav, Tanishka Sharma, Ishwari Awasare, Avni Chawda, Mahto Nidhi, Purva Siwach, Kumari Palak, Kashvi Kandikuppa, Maniar Maitri, Gouri Goyal, Janvi Vikar, Anaadi Tagde, and K. Deeksha (wk).
The schedule: June 22, 24 and 27, all in Chennai.
One-dayers: Bhavika Ahire (Capt. & wk), Mahak Narwase (Vice-capt.), Ira Jadhav, Deeya Yadav, Ishwari Awasare, V. Pratiksha, Mahto Nidhi, Purva Siwach, Kumari Palak, Kashvi Kandikuppa, Vidhi Parmar, Gouri Goyal, Janvi Vikar, Anaadi Tagde, and K. Deeksha (wk).
The dates: June 30, July 3 and 6, all at Puducherry.

Knicks stage epic comeback, move one win from NBA title

New York Knicks staged the biggest comeback in NBA Finals history as it erased a 29-point deficit to edge San Antonio Spurs 107-106 and move within one win of the title. OG Anunoby's tip-in basket with 1.2 seconds left sealed the thrilling win to give the Knicks a 3-1 stranglehold on the best-of-seven championship series, which shifts back to San Antonio for game five on Saturday.

Under-pressure USA faces Paraguay

The Americans will look to unleash McKennie, Pulisic and Balogun; co-host Canada, hampered by a long injury list, runs into Bosnia

FIFA WORLD CUP

Reuters
LOS ANGELES

Key men: Home team's star Pulisic and Paraguay midfielder Almiron will have a big role to play in their opening encounter. AFP

The United States will be under pressure to launch its World Cup campaign with a victory when it hosts underdog Paraguay on Friday.

The US, at 17th, is the highest-ranked team in Group D, while Paraguay is 41st among the tournament's 48 teams and the lowest-ranked side in a group which also includes Australia and Turkey.

The US is on a three-match winning streak against the South Americans. The home side will look to shake off the nerves by scoring early with a formidable attack featuring Weston McKennie, Christian Pulisic and Folarin Balogun.

Defence is its weakness and inexperienced goalkeeper Matt Freese may have to work hard.

Paraguay had to come through the demanding CONMEBOL qualifying section, finishing last of the six automatic qualifiers in South America.

Paraguay is in many ways the opposite of the US, with a physical backline that will try to slow the US attack but an offence that struggles to score, notching 14 goals in 18 games during qualifying.

Paraguay will also be without its main forward Julio Enciso, who will miss the opener with a thigh injury.

Paraguay will look to midfielder Diego Gomez to create chances and unleash dangerous shots from distance.

Canada, also a co-host, will also carry immense pressure into its opener when it faces Bosnia and Herzegovina with both teams seeking a first-ever knockout stage berth.

Canada's quest for respectability on the global stage has been nothing short of painful, and six defeats from six matches across the 1986 and 2022 tournaments tell the story.

But coach Jesse Marsch's revolution has injected fresh belief into a program that, less than two months after he took over in May 2024, advanced to the semifinals in its Copa America debut before being sent home by reigning World Cup champion Argentina.

Marsch, however, has hit an early snag here with a mounting injury list.

Captain Alphonso Davies, who scored Canada's first-ever goal at a World Cup, will watch the Group B opener from the sidelines with a hamstring injury.

That blow is compounded by the loss of Marcelo Flores, the Mexico-turned-Canada midfielder, to knee injury, while defender Moise Bombito's recovery from a broken leg appears to have stalled after lasting just 30 minutes in a warm-up against Uzbekistan.

With Davies expected back against Qatar and Switzerland, the burden falls largely on Jonathan David, the nation's all-time leading scorer with 39 goals. Veteran striker Edin Dzeko, one of only two remaining players from Bosnia's debut World Cup appearance in 2014, is captain and father figure to a youthful squad.

Defender Sead Kolasinac is the only other returning member from the country's last World Cup appearance.

How the teams line up at the 2026 FIFA World Cup

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
Mexico	Canada	Brazil	USA
South Africa	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Morocco	Paraguay
South Korea	Qatar	Haiti	Australia
Czechia	Switzerland	Scotland	Turkiye
GROUP E	**GROUP F**	**GROUP G**	**GROUP H**
Germany	Netherlands	Belgium	Spain
Curacao	Japan	Egypt	Cape Verde
Ivory Coast	Sweden	Iran	Saudi Arabia
Ecuador	Tunisia	New Zealand	Uruguay
GROUP I	**GROUP J**	**GROUP K**	**GROUP L**
France	Argentina	Portugal	England
Senegal	Algeria	DR Congo	Croatia
Iraq	Austria	Uzbekistan	Ghana
Norway	Jordan	Colombia	Panama

Sindhu and Tanvi enter quarterfinals

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
SYDNEY

P.V. Sindhu and teenager Tanvi Sharma entered the women's singles quarterfinals with straight-game wins at the Australian Open Super 500 badminton tournament here on Thursday.

Third seed Sindhu prevailed over compatriot Isharani Baruah 22-20, 21-12 in a round-of-16 match that lasted 42 minutes.

In another all-Indian contest, 17-year-old Tanvi, who had stunned fifth seed and world No. 11 Chiu Pin-Chian of Taiwan on Wednesday, beat Malvika Bansod 21-13, 21-15.

The results (second round):
Women: P.V. Sindhu bt Isharani Baruah 22-20, 21-12; Tanvi Sharma bt Malvika Bansod 21-13, 21-15; Pornpawee Chochuwong bt Tanya Hemanth 21-12, 21-15.
Men: Doubles: Hariharan Amsakarunan & M.R. Arjun bt Michael Owen & Dylan Soedjasa 21-17, 21-7.
Mixed doubles: Akira Koga & Natsu Saito bt Dhruv Rawat & K. Maneesha 21-19, 21-18.

NRAI names 30-member squad

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Manu Bhaker will compete in two events – 10m air pistol and 25m pistol – at the upcoming Asian Games while Anish Bhanwala will be the lone Indian representative in the men's 25m rapid-fire pistol event as the National Rifle Association of India on Thursday announced a 30-member shooting squad.

Besides Manu, the other shooters selected for two events are Vidarsa K. Vinod (women's 10m air rifle and 50m rifle 3 positions), former world champion Rudrankksh Patil (men's 10m air rifle and 50m rifle 3 positions), and Esha Singh (women's 10m air pistol and 25m pistol).

Dravid exhorts players to use Maharaja Trophy to catch the attention of IPL scouts

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Symbol of supremacy: Dravid and KSCA president Venkatesh Prasad unveiling the Maharaja Trophy. K. MURALI KUMAR

Former India captain Rahul Dravid called on cricketers to use the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 as a platform to gain the attention of IPL teams.

"I know for a fact that the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 is followed by a lot of IPL teams. There will be a lot of scouts who come to the games live, and a lot of them will watch on television," said Dravid at the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 trophy unveiling ceremony on Thursday.

"The scores, statistics and data collected from the Maharaja Trophy helps a lot of players get into the IPL. A good example is Yashraj Punja. He was one of the leading wicket-takers in the Maharaja Trophy last year. He hadn't played a lot of league cricket in Karnataka, but he was able to get the attention of IPL scouts and perform very well for Rajasthan Royals," Dravid, a former Rajasthan Royals head coach, said.

KSCA hon. secretary Santosh Menon mentioned three changes to the playing conditions. With respect to the impact player, teams will be required to submit their playing eleven before the toss.

This forces sides to focus on the composition of the eleven, without the luxury of selecting an impact player based on whether the team is fielding or batting first.

Secondly, to reward good bowling, runs will not be awarded if a batter is dismissed off a free-hit. In addition, if an on-field dismissal is subsequently overturned and the batter is found to be not out, any runs completed during the play will be restored.

The tournament will commence at Mysuru on June 20.

Arjun and Niemann for Chennai Grand Masters

C. Shyam Sundar
CHENNAI

Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi joins American GM Hans Niemann in a high-quality field that also includes the World champion D. Gukesh in the Quantbox Chennai Grand Masters chess tournament to be held here from July 16 to 22.

According to the organisers, Uzbekistan GM Nodirbek Abdusattorov will also be in the fray along with M. Pranesh, the winner of the Challengers event last year.

Shristi hopeful of doing well at junior Wimbledon c'ships

TENNIS

Neha Rani
BENGALURU

Remarkable run: Srishti has won five consecutive ITF World Tennis Tour Junior titles. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Only 13, Shristi Kiran is conquering tennis courts all over the world, from the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Guatemala, to El Salvador, collecting titles with wins over older opponents.

The Bengaluru teenager stumbled onto the tennis court from the gymnastics mat. "Tennis was my main sport from the start. Gymnastics was just for flexibility and fitness," Shristi told *The Hindu*.

Srishti's remarkable run has seen her win five consecutive ITF World Tennis Tour Junior titles. The streak began in the Dominican Republic, and culminated in a dominant J60 triumph in El Salvador, where she did not drop a set.

She credits her first coach, Niranjan Ramesh, for introducing her to the sport. She also credited Dhyan Uthappa, Founder Director, Tennis Advantage, and Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association (KSLTA) Jt. Secretary Sunil Yajaman for their unwavering support.

Better training opportunities and strong sponsorships helped her gain access to RPS Academy in Florida, where Srishti now trains under legendary coach Gabe Jaramillo. Florida, she says, revealed something she hadn't noticed about herself. "My footwork wasn't really there, even though I thought I was moving," she says.

A tight schedule leaves little room for anything else, even as she tries her best to balance academics and sport.

When asked what goes through her mind when she walks onto the court against someone older, she replies with a maturity that belies her age, "I'm not facing my opponent. I'm facing the ball. The strongest opponent would be myself."

What lies ahead is a dream appearance on hallowed turf, having qualified for the 2026 junior Wimbledon championships. "I want to go there and give it my all. To win Wimbledon is on my wishlist," she said.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Metro HC and Forest Department play out a stalemate

Metro Hockey Club drew with Karnataka Forest Department 2-2 in the KSHA Super Division hockey league match on Thursday.

The results: Metro HC 2 (Roshan 13, Teshwin 20) drew with Karnataka Forest Department 2 (Dharsan 22, Syed Basha 34).

Prerana powers Palar into semifinals of KSCA women's T20 tournament

Prerana slammed an unbeaten 106 to power Palar Sports Club past Vijaya Cricket Club in the quarterfinals of the KSCA Senior women's T20 tournament.

The scores:

Quarterfinals: Palar Sports Club, Kolar 165/4 in 20 overs (G.R. Prerana 106 n.o.) bt Vijaya Cricket Club 85/9 in 19.5 overs.

Swastic Union Cricket Club (1) 146/6 in 20 overs (Sakshi 44, Vaishnavi Beerappa Hunashyala 55 n.o., Samvidha Arunkumar 4/15) lost to Coles Cricket Club 147/5 in 19.2 overs (D.A. Trisha 50).

South End Sports Club 89 in 18.5 overs lost to Friends Union Cricket Club (1) 93/5 in 13.4 overs (Krishika Reddy 42).

Swastic Union Cricket Club (2) 75 in 17 overs (Chinmayi Shivanand 4/12) lost to Vultures Cricket Club 78/6 in 19.5 overs.

Taha is the hero for Swastic Union (2)

Mohammed Taha (226, 131b, 23x4, 15x6) helped Swastic Union (2) outclass Cambridge CC by 157 runs in the quarterfinals of the KSCA Y.S. Ramaswamy Memorial Trophy here.

The scores:
Quarterfinals:
Swastic Union Cricket Club (2) 478 in 49.1 overs (Mohammed Taha 226, Vishal Onat 82, S. Sujay 72) bt Cambridge Cricket Club 321 in 37.2 overs (Macneil Hadley Noronha 61, Rehan Mohammed 62, N.V. Pranav 4/64).
Swastic Union Cricket Club (1) 203 in 46.2 overs bt Bangalore Occasionals 128 in 34.5 overs (Nischith Rao 5/38).
Herons Cricket Club 322/8 in 50 overs (Prajwal Pavan 55, Dheeraj Mohan 51, M.R. Jayanth 56, Jullian Jacob Edward 59 n.o.) bt Vijaya Cricket Club 228 in 42.2 overs (Tushar Singh 81, Surendra Rathore 5/35). Coles Cricket Club 367/6 in 50 overs (Mayank Agarwal 90, Ashwin Santosh 46, A. Yuvraj 100 n.o., Gowtham Sagar 45 n.o.) lost to Vultures Cricket Club 368/8 in 50 overs (Karun Nair 121, K.L. Shrijith 103, K.P. Karthikeya 49 n.o.).

LIVE TELECAST

Football: World Cup, Unite8 Sports 1, 2 & Z5 App, 7.30 a.m. 12.30 a.m. & 6.30 a.m. (Saturday)
Women's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 11 p.m.

Australia's waning aura gives others a genuine chance

Defending champion New Zealand, India, England and South Africa have the resources to stop the Molineux-led side; Windies can't be taken lightly; the host faces Sri Lanka in the inaugural match

ICC T20 WORLD CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Sport's charm lies in unpredictability. That is a universal truth. Even for the Australian women's cricket team.

It wasn't quite so, until a couple of years ago. For a long time in women's cricket, ahead of an ICC World Cup, the big question would be who Australia would play in the final. If not who Australia would beat in the final.

The Aussie women were that good. It was a gathering of some of the game's all-time greats. The Aussie women are still good. They start as most people's favourites at the Women's T20 World Cup, which gets underway in Birmingham on Friday, with England taking on Sri Lanka.

But, the current Australian side, the most rounded among all the 12, doesn't have that aura of invincibility, which was the case when Meg Lanning led one of the best teams of all time in sport, not just cricket. There are at least four teams in contention for the title.

This promises to be not just bigger than the previous nine World Cups. It could also be the most watched one as well (more than two million viewed ICC's streaming of the warm-up match between England and India).

In for a ride: The teams' primary objective will be to earn a ticket to the knockouts. ICC

Today's match

England vs Sri Lanka

Birmingham, 11 P.M. IST

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: **12**

England **10** | Sri Lanka **2**

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR

This is also the most open World Cup in history. England, India, South Africa and New Zealand ensure as much. Any one of them could lift that ICC trophy at Lord's on July 5.

It is not that Australia is in decline. Just look at Alyssa Healy's replacement Georgia Voll. Or other youngsters like Annabel Sutherland and Phoebe Litchfield.

Australia is no longer the undisputed superpower because others have become stronger. New Zealand is the defending champion.

India won the ODI World Cup at home last November, finally ending the agonising wait for a global title. South Africa contested the final of the last three ICC World titles, without winning any (so what is new, you might ask).

Of the five title contenders, one will bow out after the group stage. Australia, India and South Africa are all in Group A.

In Group B, England -- which should be desperate to regain the trophy it won at home in the first edition in 2009 - and New Zealand may have it easier, though the West Indies cannot be taken lightly; a team that has Hayley Matthews and Deandra Dottin can spring surprises.

Other stars ready to shine bright this England summer include India's Smriti Mandhana, Harmanpreet Kaur and Jemimah Rodrigues; Australia's Ellyse Perry, Ashleigh Gardner and Beth Mooney; South Africa's Laura Wolvaardt and Shabnim Ismail; England's Nat Sciver-Brunt and Lauren Bell; and New Zealand's Sophie Devine and Amelie Kerr.

Devine is part of the Kiwi triumvirate - alongside Suzie Bates and Lea Tahuhu - who will end their international careers with this tournament. They represent a generation of female cricketers that had to depend on proper jobs to make a living. Like all but one of the present Netherlands team.

The Dutch will try to make a point, against the big teams. As will Scotland and Ireland, in familiar conditions.

Golden opportunity for Washington and Harsh to make a big impact

AFGHANISTAN IN INDIA

S. Dipak Ragav
DHARAMSHALA

World Cup preparations are a long-drawn process, chiselled and fine-tuned in bilateral contests. It is in these games that the team management can try out players in the heat of battle and figure out the combination.

Though there are more than 15 months to go until the 2027 ICC ODI World Cup (co-hosted by South Africa, Namibia, and Zimbabwe), India has already begun its preparations.

The Men in Blue played three one-dayers earlier in January against New Zealand. They have 17 more before the end of the year, starting with a three-match duel against Afghanistan, which begins here at the HPCA Stadium on Saturday.

This series will be crucial in auditioning candidates for spots in the middle-and-lower-order. One slot which has seen some churn in the last three ODI series has been the spin-bowling all-rounder.

After using both Axar Patel and Ravindra Jadeja in the XI during the victorious 2025 Champions Trophy campaign, India has alternated between the two in the subsequent series. Considering the conditions in South Africa won't be conducive to having two tweakers, it made sense.

While Axar got a go in Australia, Jadeja was brought back for the home assignments against South Africa and New Zealand.

However, for the series against the Afghans, neither left-armers finds a place in the squad, with the selectors handing Vidarbha's Harsh Dubey a maiden call-up.

Harsh. X@BCCI

In the mix is also Washington Sundar, who has played in six of the last nine ODIs and is looking to establish his foothold in the line-up.

These calls now raise questions about Jadeja's long-term prospects. The Saurashtra player is one of the fittest cricketers, but will be almost 39 when the quadrennial event begins, and hasn't had the greatest of runs with the bat in recent outings.

At a time when neither Virat Kohli nor Rohit Sharma is guaranteed to feature in the World Cup, Jadeja's future in this format, too, is at a crossroads.

If age and form are factors for Jadeja, Axar's case is more curious. The Gujarat all-rounder made vital contributions in the Champions Trophy and had a decent showing with the bat in Australia, but hasn't been picked since then.

This spot is vital, considering all four contenders provide a much-needed left-handed variety to an otherwise right-hand-heavy batting line-up.

For now, Washington and Harsh will be acutely aware that they have a golden chance to make a big impact.

Afghanistan-A ekes out four-run win over India-A in a rain-affected match

Press Trust of India
DAMBULLA

Afghanistan-A caused a major upset by eking out a four-run win over star-studded India-A via the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method in a rain-marred tri-series match here on Thursday.

Batting first, India-A posted a daunting 349 for nine in a 49-over innings, with Prabhsimran Singh leading the charge with a blazing 84 off 69 balls, supported by half-centuries from captain Tilak Varma (66) and Ruturaj Gaikwad (66). Due to persistent rain intervals, Afghanistan-A's target was revised to 294 runs from 38 overs.

Following an explosive start by captain Imran (75 not out off 70 balls) and Hassan Eisakhil (34 off 29 balls), Afghanistan kept themselves in the hunt. Bahir Shah (51 off 52 balls), then, joined Imran and the duo took them to 177 for two in 25.5 overs when another spell of rain stopped play.

At that stage of the game, Afghanistan was found to be four runs ahead of the par score.

Earlier, skipper Tilak, vice-captain Ruturaj and opener Prabhsimran made well-timed fifties as India-A posted a massive total.

The scores: India-A 349/9 in 49 overs (Prabhsimran Singh 84, Ruturaj Gaikwad 66, Tilak Varma 66, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi 44; Abdollah Ahmadzai 5/68) lost to Afghanistan-A 177/2 in 25.5 overs (Imran 75 n.o. Bahir Shah 51 n.o.). *Afghanistan won by four runs via DLS method.*

Toss: Afghanistan-A.

Player-of-the-Match: Imran.

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED
Notice Inviting Bid
Bid for Erection, testing and commissioning of LILO of 132 KV S/C Boranada-Ghumti line at Proposed 132KV GSS Feench (Distt. Jodhpur) on labour contract basis (Approx. 20Km) under BN- 9018002602 (UBN: VPN2627WSOB00666) are invited from interested bidders up to 04:00 PM on 09.07.2026. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal **(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in)** of the state; and **http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvpnl** departmental website.
Superintending Engineer (Contracts-I), Jaipur
Raj.Samwad/C/26/4611 R.R.V.P.N./TR-7614/2026

KERALA MARITIME BOARD
(A statutory Board of Govt. of Kerala)
TENDER NOTICE
Tender No:
02/2026-27/HOKMB-TVM/539/2025-C1(Devp)
Date: 10.06.2026
Tender for the Leasing out the Godown facility at Kovalam - Vizhinjam Port, Thiruvananthapuram Kerala Maritime Board (KMB), invites **Proposals** from competent and eligible parties who fulfill the eligibility criteria prescribed in the tender document for **Leasing out the Godown facility at Kovalam - Vizhinjam Port, Thiruvananthapuram in lease model.**
Bid form consisting of eligibility criteria, terms and conditions, and the Proforma of the tender can be downloaded from the e-tender portal of Kerala i.e, **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in.**
The bid should be submitted through e-tender portal on or before 25.07.2026, 4 PM.
Sd/- **Chief Executive Officer**
D3/353/2026/I&PRD

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer & Head(AH), Amruthahalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru-560092.
No. BNCC/CVO& H(AH) /TEND/01/26-27 Date: 11-06-2026
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System)
(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER & HEAD(ANIMAL HUSBANDRY), BENGULURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION (BNCC), invites Request for Proposal on behalf of Commissioner Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) from interested persons/firms those who have done For catching and shelter maintenance of Institutional Dogs, BENGULURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION(BNCC) limits for the below work .

Sl No.	Name of the work
1.	Consultancy Services for catching and shelter maintenance of Institutional Dogs, BENGULURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION (BNCC) limits (Call-2) **Project Cost ₹183.60 Lakhs, EMD Amount ₹. 2,75,400.00**

Calendar of Events : (1) Pre bid meeting will be held on **12-06-2026** at **4:00** pm (2) Last Date & time for receipt of tenders is **18-06-2026** upto **5:30** pm. (3) Opening Technical Bid on **20-06-2026** at **11:00** am.
Sd/- Chief veterinary officer & Head (AH)
Bengaluru North City Corporation

Govt.of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer
Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation, Division Chikodi
Tel. No.: 08338-275101 E-Mail:ee.rdws.ckd@gmail.com
NO: EE/RDW&S/DN-CKD/PB/KW4/TENDER-5/2026-27/337 Date: 10 -06-2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through kppp only)
Tenders are invited on behalf of the governor of govt of Karnataka according to KTTP act 2000 through KPPP Portal for the below mentioned works.
Work Indent No:- Work Indent No:- 10138 &10124
II) Calendar events are as follows :
i) Date of Pre Bid Meeting:16-06-2026 time 11.00am @ EE R D W & S Division Chikodi, ii) Last date & time for receipt of tenders through e-portal 18-06-2026 upto 17.00 hours. iii) Date of Opening of Technical Bid:on 19-06-2026 at 17.30 hours, iv) Date of Opening of Financial Bid on after approval of technical bid. v) Other conditions & eligibility criteria etc are as published in e-procurement portal. More details can be had from
the office of the undersigned and also through website www.kppp.Karnataka.gov.in by clicking list of Tenders which will link to all dept works list.
Sd/-Executive Engineer
RDW&S Division Chikodi
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-415/KSMCA/2026-27

boyanika
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
No. 1413 Dt. 10.06.2026
Expression of Interest (EOI) for selection of a registered Handloom Society for supply of blankets, durries, dining mats, and pillows to Boyanika. **The last date & time for submission of offers 02.07.2026 at 05.00PM.** Refer website for details-**www.boyanika.com**. All the information on this EOI will be available in the above website from **12.06.2026**.
Sd/- Managing Director Boyanika
31001/40/2627 OIPR-31001/31004/1/26-27/0015

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.
CHHABRA THERMAL POWER STATION, CHHABRA
E-TENDER NOTICE
Online tenders are invited for 1395(RVU2627GLOB00504) Design, Engineering, Manufacturing, Supply & ETC of 50 MVA, 400/6.9/6.9KV Station Transformer & Dismantling & Shifting of existing HEIL Make 50 MVA, 400/6.9/6.9KV Station Transformer & 710(RVU2627SLOB00459) 3 Year Contract for Hiring of 01 No. 52 Seater Bus and 01 No. 32 Seater Bus (Model 2023 or later) with Driver and Khalasi/Attendant. Tender details are available on websites **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** (for e-tender), **www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl & www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.**
Raj.Samwad/C/26/4615 RVUN/PR-4408 Addl. Chief Engineer (O&M)

RAICHUR POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(2X800 MW YERMARUS THERMAL POWER STATION)
(A JOINT VENTURE COMPANY OF KPCL & BHEL)
CIN : U40101KA2009PLC049582
No.KPCL/2026-27/SE0361 Dtd:06.06.2026
ABSTRACT BID NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through KPP Portal only)
Tenders are invited from experienced and competent contractors having funds mobilization capacity for carrying out the work of **Operation & Maintenance contract for 2x800MV Yeramarus Thermal Power Station (YTPS) for a period of Thirty-six (36) months at Chikkasugur, Raichir District, Karnataka State** as detailed in the NIT. The last date for receipt of the completed bids is as per e-tender schedule. The brief bid notification containing the Pre-qualifation criteria for the bidders, EMD, calendar of events and bid activities & other details can be accessed from KPP Portal of Karnataka Government. The tender document can be downloaded from the website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Further details can be had from the **Superintending Engineer (RO), Planning & Coordination, KPCL, # 82, Shakthi Bhavan, 2nd Floor, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560001 Mob: 9141614446 E-mail:headtcp kpcl@gmail.com website:https://kpcl.karnataka.gov.in**

ಶ್ರೀ ಚಾಮುಂಡೇಶ್ವರಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಚಾಮುಂಡಿಬೆಟ್ಟ, ಮೈಸೂರು-570010
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 0821-2590027, ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: eochamunditemple@gmail.com
ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಶ್ರೀಚಾಕ್ಷೇಅಪ್ರಾ(5)ಸಿಆರ್: /2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10.06.2026
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ call-3
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್ ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ (ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ)
ಮೈಸೂರು ಚಾಮುಂಡಿಬೆಟ್ಟ ಶ್ರೀ ಚಾಮುಂಡೇಶ್ವರಿ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಸೂಚಿತ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ವಿವಿಧ ಬಾಬ್ತುಗಳಿಗೆ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಮೂನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿರುವಂತೆ (Technical qualification criteria)ದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಅಗತ್ಯ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು. ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ.ಯನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ಯಾವುದಾದರು ಒಂದು ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ.ಯು ಟೆಂಡರಿನ ನ್ಯಾಯ ಸಮ್ಮತಾ ಮಾನ್ಯತಾ ಅವಧಿಗಿಂತ (Validity period) 45 ದಿನಗಳ ನಂತರದ ವರೆಗೆ ಮಾನ್ಯತೆ ಇರತಕ್ಕದ್ದು, ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹೆಸರು	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.)	ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1	ಶ್ರೀ ಚಾಮುಂಡೇಶ್ವರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಮೂಹ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನಗಳಿಗೆ ನಿತ್ಯ ಅನ್ನದಾಸೋಹ, ಹಾಗೂ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನದ ದಿನ ನಿತ್ಯದ ಬಳಕೆಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಬೇಕಾದ ದಿನಸಿ ಸಾಮಾಗ್ರಿಗಳ ಸರಬರಾಜು. (12 ತಿಂಗಳ ಅವಧಿಗೆ)	1,49,63,064	3,00,000
2	ಶ್ರೀ ಚಾಮುಂಡೇಶ್ವರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಮೂಹ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನಗಳಿಗೆ ಲಾಡು ಪ್ರಸಾದ ತಯಾರಿಕೆಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಬೇಕಾದ ದಿನಸಿ ಸಾಮಾಗ್ರಿಗಳ ಸರಬರಾಜು. (12 ತಿಂಗಳ ಅವಧಿಗೆ)	3,99,27,300	8,00,000

ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯಡಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಶೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿದೆ

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ವಿವರ	ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು	ಸಮಯ
1	ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳು ಚಾಲ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವುದು	ದಿ: 10.06.2026	ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.59 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ
2	ಪ್ರೀಬಿಡ್ಡಿಂಗ್ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ	ದಿ: 15.06.2026	ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 12 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
3	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವಿಚಾರಣೆಗೆ	ದಿ: 15.06.2026	ಸಂಜೆ 5 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
4	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ	ದಿ: 18.06.2026	ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆ ವರೆಗೆ
5	ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ದಿ: 19.06.2026	ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.01 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ
6	ಹಣಕಾಸಿನ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ದಿ: 22.06.2026	ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ
ಶ್ರೀ ಚಾಮುಂಡೇಶ್ವರಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ಚಾಮುಂಡಿಬೆಟ್ಟ
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಮೈಸೂರು/306/ಏರಡಿ ಸಾಯು/2026-27

KARNATAKA NEERAVRI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of The Executive Engineer, KNNL, TLBC Division No. 3, Sindhanur-584128.
N:KNNL/EE-3/TLBC/TS/KNP Diversion/Notification/2026-27/428Date:04.06.2026.
Tender Notification (Through e-procurement only)
The Percentage Basis tenders through E-Procurement platform in Two Cover system (i.e., Technical Bid and Financial Bid.) are invited by the Executive Engineer, KNNL, TLBC Division No.3, Sindhanur on Behalf of the Managing Director, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited, 4th Floor, Coffee Board Building, Dr|| B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore-560001 from Eligible Contractor KPWD/CPWD Class-I for the work of Diversion of Flood water from Maski nala to Kanakanala Valley and Modernization of Kanakanala Project, the Amount put to tender is Rs. 10089.97 Lakh. Last date for submission of tender through electronic tender is Date: 09.07.2026 up to 4.00 PM. The Name of work, amount put to tender, EMD amount, tender conditions and other information can be obtained from this office during office hours or through website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home.
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KNNL, TLBC Division No.3, Sindhanur.
DIP/RCR/115KSMCA/117/2026-27

Government of Karnataka
Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Department
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DIVISION BIDAR
bdr_eemi @yahoo.com eemibidar@gmail.com Phone/Fax: 08482 232080
No EE/MI&GWD/BDR/TS-2/Tender/2026-27/ 1335 Date: 10-6-2026
KPP -Procurement Tender Details (Call-2 & 3)
1) Name of Works : As mentioned in KPP-Portal, 2) Estimate cost of Work : As mentioned in KPP -Portal, 3) Eligibility of Contractor : As mentioned in KPP -Portal, 4) Amount put to tender : As mentioned in KPP -Portal, 5) Cost of tender form & Details of EMD:As mentioned in KPP -Portal, 6) Last date & time for tender queries / clarifications KW-1, KW-2, KW-3 Only: **17-06-2026 Up to 17-00 Hours,** 7) Last Date & Time for receipt of KW-3 Only : **19-06-2026 Up to 16.00 Hours,** 8) Date & time for opening Technical bid KW-3 Only : **22-06-2026 @ 11.00 Hours if possible,** 9) Date & time for opening financial bid KW-3 Only: **24-06-2026 @ 11.00 Hours if possible,** 10) For any clarification and details, office to be contacted : Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division Bidar Phone/ Fax : 08482 232080, 11) Website details : KPP portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/- Executive Engineer
MI & GWD Division, Bidar
DIPR/Bidar/56/KSMC&A/2026-27

Amul

SIR, YOU ARE TRULY A DYNAMO

Modiji, congratulations on serving as the longest running PM of India, completing 4400 days in office. We are pleased to share the historic milestones achieved under your visionary leadership.

daCunha/AB/06-26/Eng